









C. K. OGDEN

A

VOCABULARY,

OR

COLLECTION OF WORDS AND PHRASES

WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPOSED TO BE PECULIAR

TO THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

AN ESSAY

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

IN THE

UNITED STATES.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE MEMOIRS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES; AND NOW REPUBLISHED WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

BY JOHN PICKERING.

ATQUE, UT LATINE LOQUAMUR, VIDENDUM EST, UT VERBA EFFERAMUS EA, QUÆ
NEMO JURE REPREHENDAT. CIC. DE ORAT.

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BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY CUMMINGS AND HILLIARD, NO. 1 CORNHILL.

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CAMBRIDGE....HILLIARD AND METCALF.

1816.

## DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*District Clerk's Office.*

BE it remembered, that on the twenty ninth day of May, A D 1816, and in the fortieth year of the independence of the United States of America, JOHN PICKERING, Esq. of the said district, has deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, viz :

"A Vocabulary, or collection of words and phrases which have been supposed to be peculiar to the United States of America To which is prefixed an Essay on the present state of the English language in the United States. Originally published in the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and now republished with corrections and additions. By JOHN PICKERING. Atque, ut Latine loquamur, videndum est, ut verba efferamus ea, quæ nemo jure reprehendat. Cic. de Orat."

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an act, entitled "An act supplementary to an act, entitled an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

J. W. DAVIS, { *Clerk of the district*  
                          { *of Massachusetts.*

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## PREFACE.

THE following work contains the substance of a Paper lately communicated by me to the *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, and published in the last volume of their *Memoirs*. Immediately after the publication, it was suggested to me by some of my friends, that, as the circulation of the *Memoirs*, from the nature of the subjects usually discussed in them, was confined to a small class of readers, the object of the Paper would be more fully answered, if it should be published by itself. Permission was accordingly obtained for that purpose; and the work is now submitted to the candour of my countrymen in its present form.

The *Essay*, which precedes the *Vocabulary*, remains in its original form, of a *communication addressed to the Academy*; but with some additions and corrections. The *Vocabulary* has been much enlarged and corrected; and the whole may, in a great measure, be considered as a new work.

I first began the practice of occasionally noting *Americanisms* and expressions of doubtful authority for my own use, during my residence in London; which was from the close of the year 1799 to the autumn of 1801. But I had never attempted to make a

Collection of our peculiarities till a few years ago ; when, in consequence of a decided opinion of some friends, that a work of the kind would be generally acceptable, I began to reduce into order the few materials I possessed, and to make such additions to them as my leisure would permit. The present volume is the result of that labour ; for labour it may truly be called. To those persons indeed, who have never undertaken to make such a collection, and to investigate, compare and cite the numerous authorities, which a work of this nature demands, the present volume will, perhaps, appear not to have been a very arduous task. But when the reader shall have examined it, and have observed the various citations, and the continual references to dictionaries and glossaries, he will be able to form some judgment of the time and pains it must have cost me. These circumstances, however, are mentioned merely with a view to have just allowances made for the deficiencies, which may be observed in the work. It has, I am sensible, many imperfections ; of which my own *Americanisms* may not be the least ; and I again ask the reader, as I have done in the *Essay*, to consider this merely as the *beginning* of a work, which can be completed only by long and accurate observation.

In order, however, to render this performance as worthy of attention as possible, I submitted it originally to several English and American friends ; and I cannot dismiss it without acknowledging my obligations to them. Two of those friends, in particular, English gentlemen of education (whose remarks are distinguished by the signatures mentioned in the course of the work) have strong claims upon me. One of them, indeed (I say it with pain) is now beyond the reach of public applause, and of this expression of my feelings. That the reader, however, may justly appreciate their

authority, I ought to state, what they have often observed to me, that although they were educated in *England*, yet having resided in *America* a long time, (about twenty years) their ear had lost much of that sensibility to deviations from the pure English idiom, which once would have enabled them to pronounce with decision in cases where they now felt doubts.

I shall detain the reader with only a few remarks more in respect to the execution of the work ; and these arise, in part, from the circumstances under which the present, like almost every American work, has been written.

It should be recollected, that in this country we can hardly be said to have any *authors by profession*. The works we have produced, have, for the most part, been written by men, who were obliged to depend upon other employments for their support ; and who could devote to literary pursuits those few moments only, which their thirst for learning stimulated them to snatch from their daily avocations. Our writings, therefore, though not deficient in ability, yet too frequently want that *finishing*, as artists term it, which is to be acquired only by long practice in writing, as in other arts ; and this is a defect, which, with scholars accustomed to highly-finished productions, can only be compensated by an extraordinary degree of merit in the *substance* of a work.

It may, perhaps, be thought by some persons, that I have admitted words into the *Vocabulary*, which do not properly belong to it ; particularly, on account of their being, either *not peculiar to this country*, or mere *vulgarisms*. It should, however, be recollected, that I was not making a *dictionary* of our language, but a *glossary of provincialisms* : that many words would be ad-

mitted into such a work (as they are in fact by the English glossarists) which would be rejected from a dictionary ; and, that it seemed to be useful (as I have observed in the Essay\*) to insert *all words, the legitimacy of which had been questioned* ; in order, that their claim to a place in the language might be discussed and settled. With respect to some of these words too, I may add, that they had been already brought into notice by our lexicographers and other writers ; and, therefore, seemed to demand attention in this work. I have, however, endeavoured to state such particulars under most of the words, as, I trust, will enable the reader to form a just estimate of them ; and, if I have been successful in this respect, even though some words may be found in the collection which ought not to be there, yet the object of the work will be accomplished.

In this country, as is the case in England, we have thirsty reformers and presumptuous sciologists, who would unsettle the whole of our admirable language for the purpose of making it conform to their whimsical notions of propriety. Some of our corruptions have originated with such people. But one of the greatest pests of speech in this country, as in England also, (to use the words of Dr. Johnson) is, the “frequency of translation.” Several of the corruptions, which English critics have censured in our writings, are mere *Gallicisms* ; and unless the licence of translators is checked (to adopt the language of Johnson again) their idleness and ignorance will “reduce us to babble a dialect of France.” Every writer should remember (as an English Review justly observes) that “it is his business to use his language as he finds it ; and a great part of his skill lies in giving effect to that, which in

\* See the remarks, at p. 19.



other hands might appear to disadvantage. If one expression is objectionable, it is his task to find another, that is not so, to fill his own idea, yet not depart from the language he employs."\*

*Salem (Massachusetts), May 29, 1816.*

\* Brit. Crit. vol. xxii. p. 77.



## ESSAY.

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THE preservation of the *English* language in its purity throughout the United States is an object deserving the attention of every American, who is a friend to the literature and science of his country. It is in a particular manner entitled to the consideration of the Academy; for, though subjects, which are usually ranked under the head of *Physical Science*, were doubtless chiefly in view with the founders of the Academy, yet, our *language* also, which is to be the instrument of communicating to the public the speculations and discoveries of our countrymen, seems necessarily “to fall within the design of the institution;” because, unless that language is well settled, and can be read with ease by all to whom it is addressed, our authors will write and publish, certainly under many disadvantages, though perhaps not altogether in vain.

It is true, indeed, that our countrymen may speak and write in a *dialect* of English, which will be understood in the *United States*; but if they are ambitious of having their works read by Englishmen as well as by Americans, they must write in a language that Englishmen can read with pleasure. And if for some time to come it should not be the lot of many Americans to publish works, which will be read out of their own country, yet all, who have the least tincture of learning, will continue to feel an ardent desire to acquaint themselves with *English* authors. Let us then for a moment imagine the time to have arrived,

when *Americans* shall no longer be able to understand the works of Milton, Pope, Swift, Addison, and other English authors, justly styled classic, without the aid of a *translation* into a language, that is to be called at some future day the *American* tongue! By such a change, it is true, our loss would not be so great in works purely scientific, as in those which are usually termed works of taste; for the obvious reason, that the design of the former is merely to communicate information, without regard to elegance of language or the force and beauty of the sentiments. But the excellencies of works of taste cannot be felt even in the best translations:—a truth, which, without resorting to the example of the matchless ancients, will be acknowledged by every man, who is acquainted with the admirable works extant in various living languages. Nor is this the only view in which a radical change of language would be an evil. To say nothing of the facilities afforded by a *common language* in the ordinary intercourse of business, it should not be forgotten, that our religion and our laws are studied in the language of the nation, from which we are descended; and, with the loss of the language, we should finally suffer the loss of those peculiar advantages, which we now derive from the investigations of the jurists and divines of that country.

But, it is often asked among us, do not the people of this country now speak and write the English language with purity? A brief consideration of the subject will furnish a satisfactory answer to this question; it will also enable us to correct the erroneous opinions entertained by some Americans on this point, and at the same time to defend our countrymen against the charge made by some English writers, of a *design* to effect an entire change in the language.

As the inquiry before us is a simple question of fact, it

is to be determined, like every other question of this nature, by proper evidence. What evidence then have we, that the English language is not spoken and written in America, with the same degree of purity that is to be found in the writers and orators of England?

In the first place, although it is agreed, that there is greater uniformity of dialect throughout the United States (in consequence of the frequent removals of people from one part of our country to another) than is to be found throughout England; yet none of our countrymen, not even those, who are the most zealous in supporting what they imagine to be the honour of the *American* character, will contend, that we have not in some instances departed from the standard of the language. We have formed some *new* words; and to some *old* ones, that are still used in England, we have affixed *new significations*: while others, which have long been *obsolete* in England, are still retained in common use with us. If then, in addition to these acknowledgments of our *own countrymen*, we allow any weight to the opinions of *Englishmen*, (who must be competent judges in this case,) it cannot be denied, that we have in several instances deviated from the standard of the language, as *spoken and written in England at the present day*. By this, however, I do not mean, that so great a deviation has taken place, as to have rendered any considerable part of our language unintelligible to Englishmen; but merely, that so many corruptions have crept into *our English*, as to have become the subject of much animadversion and regret with the learned of Great Britain. And as we are hardly aware of the opinion entertained by them of the extent of these corruptions, it may be useful, if it should not be very flattering to our pride, to hear their remarks on this subject in their own words. We shall find that these corruptions are censured, not by mere pretenders

to learning, but, (so far as the fact is to be ascertained from English publications,) by all the scholars of that country, who take an interest in American literature. In proof of this, I request the attention of the Academy to the following extracts from several of the British Reviews; some of which are the most distinguished of the present day, and all of which together may be considered as expressing the general opinion of the literary men of Great Britain, who have attended to this subject. That all the remarks are just, to the extent in which they will naturally be understood, few of our countrymen will be willing to admit.\*

The *British Critic* (for February 1810) in a review of the Rev. Mr. Bancroft's *Life of Washington*, says—"In the style we observe, with regret rather than with astonishment, the introduction of several *new* words, or *old* words in a new sense; a deviation from the rules of the English language, which, if it continues to be practised by good writers in America, will introduce confusion into the medium of intercourse, and render it a subject of regret that the people of that continent should not have an entirely separate language as well as government of their own. Instances occur at almost every page; without pains in selecting, the following may be taken as specimens." &c. The Reviewers then mention several words, all of which are inserted in the following Vocabulary.

The same Reviewers (in April 1808) in their account of Chief Justice Marshall's *Life of Washington*, have the following remarks:—"In the writings of *Americans* we have often discovered deviations from the purity of the English idiom, which we have been more disposed to censure than to wonder at. The common speech of the Unit-

\* See Note at the end of this Essay.

“ed States has departed very considerably from the standard adopted in England, and in this case it is not to be expected that *writers*, however cautious, will maintain a strict purity. Mr. Marshall deviates occasionally, but not grossly,” &c.

'The *Critical Review* (for September 1809) in remarks upon *Travels through France*, by Col. Pinckney, says—“He falls into occasional inaccuracies.....but the instances are rare, and by no means so striking as we have frequent occasions of remarking in most American writers.”

The same Reviewers (in July 1807) in speaking of *Marshall's Life of Washington*, have the following among other remarks on the style of that work—that “it abounds with many of those idioms which prevail on the other side of the Atlantic.”

The *Annual Review* (for 1808) in speaking of the same work, after pointing out several instances of false English (in respect to many of which, however, the Reviewers have been misled by the incorrectness of the *English edition* of that work, as will be seen in the following Vocabulary,) has the following observations; which, if they had been made in a manner somewhat different, would probably have been more favourably received by those, for whose benefit they seem to be intended:—“We have been more particular in noticing these faults in Mr. Marshall's language, because we are not at all certain that the Americans do not consider them as beauties; and because we wish, if possible, to stem that torrent of barbarous phraseology, with which the American writers threaten to destroy the purity of the English language.”

The *Monthly Reviewers* (in May 1808) in their account of a little work, entitled *A Political Sketch of America*, cite with approbation, the following passage—“The national language should be sedulously cultivated; and this is to be

“accomplished by means of schools. This circumstance  
 “demands particular attention, for the language of *conver-*  
 “*sation* is becoming incorrect; and even in America *authors*  
 “are to be found, who make use of *new* or *obsolete* words,  
 “which no good writer in this country would employ.”

The *Eclectic Review* (for August 1813) in noticing  
*Sketches of Louisiana*, by Major A. Stoddard, makes the  
 following observations on the style of that author and of our  
 writers in general: “For an American the composition  
 “is tolerable: but the Major has a good share of those  
 “words and phrases, which his literary countrymen must,  
 “however reluctantly, relinquish before they will rank  
 “with good writers. The standard is fixed, unless it were  
 “possible to consign to oblivion the assemblage of those  
 “great authors on whose account the Americans themselves  
 “are to feel complacency in their language to the latest  
 “ages.”

The *Edinburgh Review* (for October 1804) which is the  
 last I shall cite, has the following general observations on  
 this subject:—

“If the men of birth and education in that other Eng-  
 “land, which they are building up in the West, will not  
 “*diligently study* the great authors, who purified and fixed  
 “the language of our common forefathers, we must soon  
 “lose the only badge, that is still worn, of our consanguin-  
 “ity.”

The same Reviewers, in their remarks on *Marshall's*  
 and *Ramsau's* *Lives of Washington*, say—

“In these volumes we have found a *great many words*  
 “and phrases which *English* criticism refuses to acknowl-  
 “edge. America has thrown off the yoke of the British  
 “nation, but she would do well for some time, to take the  
 “laws of composition from the Addisons, the Swifts and the  
 “Robertsons of her ancient sovereign....These remarks,



“however, are not dictated by any paltry feelings of jealousy or pride. We glory in the diffusion of our language over a new world, where we hope it is yet destined to collect new triumphs; and in the brilliant perspective of American greatness, *we* see only pleasing images of associated prosperity and glory of the land in which we live.”

Such is the strong language of British scholars on this subject. And shall we at once, without examination, ascribe it wholly to prejudice? Should we not by such a hasty decision expose ourselves to the like imputation? On the contrary, should not the opinions of such writers stimulate us to inquiry, that we may ascertain whether their animadversions are well founded or not? We see the same critics censure the Scotticisms of their *northern brethren*, the peculiarities of the *Irish*, and the provincial corruptions of their own *English* writers. We cannot therefore be so wanting in liberality as to think, that, when deciding upon the literary claims of *Americans*, they are governed by prejudice or jealousy. A suspicion of this sort should be the less readily entertained, as we acknowledge that they sometimes do justice to our countrymen. The writings of Dr. Franklin, for example, have received the highest praise; and a few other American authors have been liberally commended by them. The opinions of these critics too are supported by those of some distinguished men in our own country. Dr. *Franklin* censures, without reserve, “the popular errors several of our own states are *continually* falling into,” with respect to “expressions and pronunciation.”\* Dr. *Witherspoon*, who, by having been educated in Great Britain, and by his subsequent long residence in the United States, was peculiarly well qualified to judge on this subject, remarks:—“I shall also admit, though with

\* See the word *Improve* in the following Vocabulary.

“some hesitation, that gentlemen and scholars in Great  
 “Britain speak as much with the vulgar in common chit  
 “chat, as persons of the same class do in America; but  
 “there is a remarkable difference in their public and sol-  
 “enn discourses. I have heard in this country in the sen-  
 “ate, at the bar, and from the pulpit, and see daily in dis-  
 “sertations from the press, errors in grammar, impropri-  
 “eties and vulgarisms, which hardly any person of the  
 “same class in point of rank and literature would have  
 “fallen into in Great Britain.”\*

With these opinions of such distinguished writers before  
 us, shall we entertain the illiberal jealousy that justice is in-  
 tentiously withheld from us by our English brethren? Let  
 us rather imitate the example of the learned and mod-  
 est *Campbell*, who, though he had devoted a great part of  
 a long life to the study of the *English* language, yet thought  
 it no disgrace to make an apology for his *style*, in the fol-  
 lowing terms: “Sensible,” says he, “of the disadvantages,  
 “in point of style, which my northern situation lays me  
 “under, I have availed myself of every opportunity of bet-  
 “ter information, in regard to all those terms and phras-  
 “es in the version, [of the Gospels] of which I was doubt-  
 “ful. I feel myself under particular obligations on this  
 “account, to one gentleman, my valuable friend and col-  
 “league, Dr. Beattie, who, though similarly situated with  
 “myself, has with greater success studied the genius and  
 “idiom of our language; and of whom it is no more than  
 “justice to add, that the acknowledged purity of his own  
 “diction, is the least of his qualifications as an author.  
 “But if, notwithstanding all the care I have taken, I shall  
 “be found, in many places, to need the indulgence of the  
 “*English* reader, it will not much surprise me....The apol-  
 “ogy which Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons in Gaul, in the

\* *Druid*, No. V

“second century, makes for his language, in a book he published in defence of religion, appears to me so candid, so modest, so sensible, at the same time so apposite to my own case, that I cannot avoid transcribing and adopting it:—‘Non autem exquires a nobis, qui apud Celtas commoramur, et in barbarum sermonem plerumque avocamur, orationis artem quam non didicimus, neque vim conscriptoris quam non affectavimus, neque ornamentum verborum, neque suadelam quam nescimus’.....”\*

Upon an impartial consideration of the subject, therefore, it seems impossible to resist the conclusion, that, although the language of the United States has perhaps, changed less than might have been expected, when we consider how many years have elapsed since our ancestors brought it from England; yet it has in so many instances departed from the English standard, that our scholars should lose no time in endeavouring to restore it to its purity, and to prevent future corruption.

This, it is obvious, is to be effected, in the first place, by carefully noting every unauthorized word and phrase; or (as Dr. Franklin many years ago recommended, in his letter to Mr. Webster on this subject,†) by “*setting a discountenancing mark*” upon such of them, as are not rendered indispensably necessary by the peculiar circumstances of our country; and, even if we should continue to have a partiality for some of those expressions, and should choose to retain them, it will always be useful *to know* them. By knowing exactly what peculiar words are in use with us, we should, among other advantages, have it in our power to expose the calumnies of some prejudiced and ignorant writers, who have frequently laid to the charge of our countrymen *in general* the affected words and

\* Campbell’s Four Gospels, preface, p. 28.

† See the word *Improve* in the following *Vocabulary*.

phrases of a few conceited *individuals* :—words and phrases, which are justly the subject of as much ridicule in *America*, as they are in *Great Britain*. As a general rule also, we should undoubtedly avoid all those words which are noticed by English authors of reputation, as expressions with which *they are unacquainted* ; for although we might produce some English authority for such words, yet the very circumstance of their being thus noticed by well educated *Englishmen*, is a proof that they are not in use at this day in England, and, of course, ought not to be used elsewhere by those who would speak *correct English*.

With a view to this important object I have taken some pains to make a collection of words and phrases, which I offer to the Academy, not as a perfect list of our real or supposed peculiarities of language, but merely as the beginning of a work, which can be completed only by long and accurate observation, especially of intelligent Americans, who shall have an opportunity of residing in England, and of well educated Englishmen who may visit this country. It has long been the wish of our scholars to see a work of this kind ; but, though several words have been noticed by Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Franklin, and some others, yet no one seems to have been willing to undertake the laborious task of making a general collection of them. Seeing no prospect of such a work, and observing, with no small degree of solicitude, the corruptions which are gradually insinuating themselves into our language, I have taken the liberty to ask the attention of the Academy to this subject, by laying before them the following Vocabulary ; a performance, which I am sensible is not so worthy of their notice, as it might have been made, had more time and ability been devoted to it.

In making this Vocabulary, I have resorted to all the

sources of information in my power, and have, under each word, given some authorities for and against the use of it. I have also subjoined to some of the words, the criticisms of Dr. Franklin, Dr. Witherspoon, and other writers, at large, in order that the reader may avail himself of their instructive observations, without the trouble of searching for them through the numerous volumes of their works; and in all cases, where any word had been noticed by English or American writers, which I had also myself observed, (particularly during my residence in England, where my attention was first directed to this subject,) I have chosen to give it upon their authority, rather than my own. Many words will be found in the collection, which are not in fact of *American origin*, or peculiar to Americans; but it appeared to me that it would be useful to insert all words, the legitimacy of which had been questioned, in order that their claim to a place in the language might be discussed and settled. Several of the words have been obtained from British Reviews of American publications; and I may here remark, how much it is to be regretted, that the reviewers have not pointed out *all* the instances, which have come under their notice, of our deviations from the *English* standard. This would have been doing an essential service to our literature, and have been the most effectual means of accomplishing what those scholars appear to have so much at heart—the preservation of the English language in its purity, wherever it is spoken.

It has been asserted, that we have discovered a much stronger propensity than the English, to add new words to the language; and the little animadversion, which, till within a few years, such new-coined words have met with among us, seems to support that opinion. The passion for these senseless novelties, however, has for some time past been declining. Our greatest danger now is, that we shall

continue to use antiquated words, which were brought to this country by our forefathers nearly two centuries ago ; (some of which too were at that day *provincial* words in England) ; and, that we shall affix a *new signification* to words, which are still used in that country solely in their original sense. Words of these descriptions having long formed a part of the language, we are not led to examine critically the authority on which their different significations rest ; but those which are *entirely new*, like strangers on their first appearance, immediately attract our attention, and induce us to inquire into their pretensions to the rank they claim.\*

But it is not enough for us to note single *words* ; our *idiom*, it should seem, is in some degree changed, and is in danger of still greater corruptions.† At the same time, there-

\* The reader will not infer from these remarks, that *our right* to make new words is here meant to be denied. We, as members of that great community or family which speaks the English language, have undoubtedly, as well as the other members, a right to make words and to propose them for adoption into our common language. But unless those, who are the final arbiters in the case, that is, the body of the learned and polite of this whole community, wherever they may be, shall sanction such new terms, it will be presumptuous in the authors of them to attempt to force them into general use. We should hardly be willing to adopt all the words and phrases which the people of Scotland, of Ireland, or of the British Settlements in various parts of the world, should propose to make a part of our common language. Our right however in this respect is not contested by the English themselves : See, for instance, the remark of the *British Critic* on this subject, under the word *Lengthy* in the following Vocabulary.

† That a radical change in the language of a people, so remote from the source of it, as we are from England, is not an imaginary supposition, will be apparent from the alterations which have taken place among the nations of Europe ; of which no instance, perhaps, is more striking, than the gradual change and final separation of the languages of Spain and Portugal, notwithstanding the vicinity and frequent intercourse of the people of those two countries.

fore, that we are “setting a discountenancing mark” upon unauthorized words, we should assiduously study the language of the best authors, especially Dryden, Swift, and Addison; to the last of whom, Dr. Blair, in his *Lectures on Rhetoric*, justly applies Quintilian’s well-known remark upon Cicero—that “to be highly pleased with his manner of writing is the criterion of a good taste in English style—*Ille se profecisse sciat cui Cicero valde placebit* ;” and of whom Dr. Johnson emphatically says—“whoever would attain a good English style, familiar but not coarse, and elegant but not ostentatious, must give his days and nights to the volumes of Addison.” Dr. Franklin, who in his *Life* informs us that it was *one of the greatest objects of his ambition to write English well*, formed his style upon that of Addison; and Franklin is one of the very few American writers, whose style has satisfied the English critics. This is the discipline to which the most distinguished scholars of Great Britain have submitted, and without which neither they nor the scholars of our own country, can acquire and preserve a pure English style. It is related of Mr. Fox, that when speaking of his intended History, he said, he would “*admit no word into his book for which he had not the authority of Dryden.*”<sup>\*</sup> This determination may perhaps seem, at first view, to have been dictated by too fastidious a taste, or an undue partiality for a favourite author; but unquestionably, a rule of this sort, adopted in the course of our education, and extended to a few of the best authors, would be the most effectual method of acquiring a good English style. And surely, if Fox found no necessity for any other words than Dryden had used, those writers have little excuse, who take the liberty, not only of using all the words they can find in the whole body of English authors, ancient and

<sup>\*</sup> Preface to his *History of James the Second*.

modern, but also of making new terms of their own at pleasure. Who shall have a right to complain of scarcity, where that distinguished orator found abundance? Such standard authors, therefore, should be made the *foundation of our English*; but as our language, like all others, is constantly though slowly changing, we should also, in order to perfect our style, as we advance to mature age, study those authors of our own time, who have made the older writers their models. Every word in the writings of Addison, is not now in general use, in England; and many words have been adopted since his time, and are now sanctioned by the best writers of that country. These writers, therefore, as well as their illustrious masters, ought to be diligently read: for we should always remember, that in language, as in the fine arts, we can only attain to excellence by an incessant study of the best models.

*Note to page 12.*

If it should be said that these Reviewers have here more deference paid to them, than is due to anonymous writers, it may (to adopt the remarks of a learned English friend) be answered, “1. that they are not always anonymous; 2. that like individuals, they can, and do, make to themselves a name; 3. that they are so far corporate, that if any of their writers habitually give dissatisfaction to their readers, they will in general be secretly reprov’d, and, if necessary, be dismissed; 4. that British authors themselves stand in some awe of their tribunal; 5. and lastly, that in cases of criticism, in consequence of the interference of readers of all descriptions, false judgments are soon put down; so that a *review* by its very existence has presumptive evidence in its favour as to verbal criticisms. Besides if we reject the authority of respectable reviews, to what other better tribunal shall we in general resort?

“Reviewers, however, sometimes err in *their own* language, particularly by the introduction of new words; and in this respect we may point out the Edinburgh and Annual Reviews as faulty. “Heartlessness” and many such words occur in one or other of them; but rapid eloquence has many faults forgiven to it; and no words perhaps are more frequently invented and admitted, though sometimes only for the



moment, than burning glowing words. But, in their cooler judgment of the phrases of others, Reviewers are commonly deserving of respect; as they speak here pursuant to the experience and habits of their whole lives, and often obtain the opinions of others before they publish their own." *A.*

To these remarks I will only add the following, from an English review of high rank, which had been attacked by an author, whose work it had censured :

"It is impossible (says the British Critic) not to smile at the cant, which one disappointed poetaster catches from another about Reviewers, whom they affect to represent, and possibly persuade themselves to suppose, a race of beings, with properties and propensities peculiar to themselves, and all hostile to literature. In the mean time what have reviewers been in truth? By turns all the literary men of the age in which they lived :—Smollet, Fraucklin, Goldsmith, Johnson, &c. &c. were reviewers in their day ; and in every age wherein reviews are published, all literary men, who are either friends to the conductors of the work, or not too rich (which few such men have ever been) to lend their services for profit, will be occasional reviewers. Whatever Mr. Knight may choose to think of the principal conductors of the British Critic (who, however, are neither ashamed nor afraid to avow their names, or appear in competition with much abler men than he is) we are proud to say, that, besides the persons regularly employed, there are few eminent scholars, friendly in their opinions to us, who have not sometimes contributed their assistance to this review. Even the censure of which Mr. Knight has complained, was not written by a professed reviewer, but by a scholar of great eminence, who kindly gave his pen to the employment. Let such self-sufficient authors, therefore, know, that when they fight the air, and raise such phantoms of reviewers, they are, perhaps, contending with the ablest scholars or critics of the age." *Review of Knight's Progress of Civil Society, in the British Critic*, vol. viii. p. 28.



## VOCABULARY.

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### ACCOMPLISHED.

Dr. Witherspoon thus notices a peculiar use of this word, which he places among his "*Americanisms*:" "He is a man of most *accomplished* abilities. A man may be said to be of distinguished abilities, or great accomplishments, but *accomplished abilities* is wholly new." *Witherspoon's Druid*, No. 7. No American at the present day would make use of this extraordinary expression: I have never found any person, who has met with it in any of our publications, or heard it in conversation.

ACCOUNTABILITY. "A being subject to answer or account for." *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, by Noah Webster Esq.

This word is often used by our divines and other writers; but it is not to be found in the English dictionaries, nor do I recollect seeing it myself in any English publications, except some modern translations from the French. A learned English friend, however (to whom I am indebted for many valuable observations) remarks, that "certain divines and ethical writers among the *English* have often used this word; and in some instances it has been used by their politicians."\* None

\* The remarks distinguished by the signature "A" throughout this Vocabulary are from the obliging correspondent here quoted.

of the *dictionaries*, indeed, had the word *accountableness*, until Mason inserted it in his Supplement to Johnson's Dictionary, where it is given upon the authority of *Duncan's Logie*. From Mason's work it has been adopted into the new edition of Johnson, by the Rev. H. J. Todd. I may add, that though this learned editor has admitted the word *accountableness*, he has not inserted *accountability*.

**To ADMIRE.** To like very much; to be very fond of.

This verb is much used in *New England* in expressions like the following: I should *admire* to go to such a place; I should *admire* to have such a thing, &c. It is never thus used by the English; and among us it is confined to the language of conversation.

**To ADVOCATE.** To be an advocate for; to defend; to support.

This word has long been used in our legislative bodies, and is now adopted by most of our writers: "Some are taking unwearied pains to disparage the motives of those federalists who *advocate* the equal support of," &c. *Letter from Alexander Hamilton concerning the public conduct and character of John Adams Esq.* p. 1. "I shall on a future occasion examine impartially, and endeavour to ascertain precisely the true value of this opinion, which is so warmly *advocated* by all the great orators of antiquity." *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory, by the Hon. John Q. Adams*; vol. i. p. 38. "This seems to be a foreign and local dialect, and cannot be *advocated* by any person that understands correct English." *Webster's Dissertations on the English Language*, p. 111.

In the former edition of this Vocabulary I considered the verb *to advocate* as a word of *American* origin: and remarked, that, although it was used by *Scottish* and *Irish* writers, I had never met with any

*English* authority for it. Until very recently it has certainly been ranked among *Americanisms*, both by the English and our own writers. In the Preface to the *English* edition of one of our works (Dr. Ramsay's *History of the Revolution*) which was printed in the year 1793, it is classed by the London editor among those "*American*" words, which the *English* "have altogether declined to countenance," as verbs "*invented* without any apparent reason;" and our countryman, Dr. Franklin, several years ago pointedly condemned this, among other "new" words, which had been introduced into *our* parliamentary language during his [then] late absence in France.\* It has however, been discovered (as will be seen in the following extract from the new edition of Johnson's Dictionary, by the Rev. H. J. Todd) that this verb was used by *Milton*; and it has been sanctioned in modern times by the authority of *Burke*; to which we may now add, that of Mr. *Todd*. As his work is at present rare in this country, I have thought it would be interesting to most readers to see his remarks on this word at large:

"*To ADVOCATE*, *v. a.* [Lat. *advoco*, Fr. *avocasser*.] To plead; to support; to defend. Mr. Boucher has remarked, that though this verb has been said to be an improvement on the English language, which has been discovered by the United States of North America, since their separation from Great Britain, it is a very common and old Scottish word; which indeed it is both as an active and neuter verb. But Mr. Boucher has been misled in this literary concession which he has made to the Americans; for it is also an old English word, employed by one

\* Letter to Mr. Webster, Dec. 26, 1789.

of our finest and most manly writers; and if the Americans affect to plume themselves on *this pretended improvement of our language*, let them as well as their abettors withdraw the unfounded claim to discovery, in turning to the prose-writings of Milton. In the dictionaries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, however, as in the Latin of Thomas, the Spanish of Minshew, the Italian of Florio, and the French of Cotgrave, *advoco*, *advogar*, *avocare*, and *advocasser*, are rendered not *to advocate*, but ‘*to play the advocate*.’ Whether this reflect not with a contumely upon the parliament itself, which thought this petition worthy, not only of receiving, but of voting to a commitment, after it had been *advocated*, and moved for by some honourable and learned gentlemen of the house, to be called a combination of libelling separatists, and the advocates thereof to be branded for incendiaries; whether this appeach not the judgment and approbation of the parliament I leave to equal arbiters.’ *Milton, Animadversions*, § 1. ‘This is the only thing distinct and sensible that has been *advocated*.’ *Burke, Speech on the Reform of Representation*.”

Though this verb is to be found in *Milton*, yet it does not appear to have been *in common use* in England either at the time when he wrote, or since that period. *Burke*, however, it seems, employed it in one of his *speeches* (the one above quoted by Mr. Todd, which was in the year 1782) and possibly on other occasions; but I do not recollect seeing it in any of his *later writings*. It has been very recently adopted by a few other writers, and seems now to be getting into use in England: “But from his want of sober-mindedness we cannot always prove his earnestness in the cause he *advocated*.” *D’Israeli’s Quarrels of Authors*,

vol. i. p. 12, *not. Amer. edit.* "It has indeed frequently fallen to his lot *to advocate* the cause of wisdom." *Parliamentary Portraits*, p. 95; and again at pp. 116 and 144; *London edit.* 1815. A friend has also given me the following instance of it in the title of an English publication: "*Christian Liberty advocated; a Discourse by Henry H. Piper, London 1808; reviewed in the Monthly Review, vol. lix. p. 335.*" It is to be found occasionally in the debates of the British Parliament (more particularly in the speeches of the *Irish* members) as they are reported in the newspapers: "It was incumbent on them to prove that no selfish view to our own colonial interest had actuated us, while *advocating* the cause of humanity." *Speech of Lord Castlereagh, in the Courier of March 20, 1815.* But in *parliamentary* language the English have hitherto commonly used the verb *to support*: "Mr. W. shortly opposed the motion; Mr. S. *supported* it." *Debates, May 4, 1813.* The verb *to advocate* is also in use with the *Scottish* reviewers (see, for instance, the *Edinburgh Review*, vol. xiii. p. 77.) and I have very lately met with it in an *English* review: "Distinct from all considerations of the system of religious doctrine which he *advocated*," &c. *Monthly Review*, vol. lxxii. p. 129.

But to return to the extract from Mr. Todd's work. It is there said, that *to advocate* is a very common and old *Scottish* word. The word itself has undoubtedly been long used in Scotland, but it has been used in the *technical* sense which it has in their law; and this, it need hardly be observed, is very different from the signification in question, as will be evident from the authorities cited by Mr. Boucher in the work alluded to by Mr. Todd.\*

\* As Mr. Boucher's work is seldom to be met with in this country,

I shall add but one or two remarks more on this article. Mr. Todd seems to suppose that the Americans "affect to plume themselves on this pretended improvement of our language;" and he then, in a tone, which the occasion seemed hardly to require, calls upon them as well as their "abettors," to "withdraw their unfounded claim to discovery in turning to the prose-writings of Milton." I was not aware that the Americans did "plume themselves" upon this word. We did, indeed, believe it to be a word *not in use* among Englishmen, because they themselves have considered it as a word *invented* by us, and have censured it as one of the faults of our writers. The truth is, too, that although most Americans have adopted it, yet some of our writers, who have been particularly attentive to their style, have (whether there has been any merit in this or not, let scholars judge.) avoided using it. Nor would they probably have felt themselves warranted in employing this, any more than they would many other ancient words

I here subjoin his authorities at large; with references to one or two in another work:

"The members of the college of justice have this privilege, that they cannot be pursued before any inferior judge; and if they be, the lords will *advocate* the cause to themselves. *Sir George Mackenzie's Institutions of Law*, p. 16. See also *Historical Law Tracts*, vol. i. p. 398, where it is said to have been ordained by an act, 'that causes be not *advocated* by the lords from the judge ordinary, except for deadly feud, or where the judge is a party, or the causes of the lords of session, their advocates, scribes and members.' See also a message from Pope Boniface the 8th in 1300, claiming [the kingdom of Scotland to the See of Rome; in which he says, I *advocate* the cause, i.e. I will determine between you and myself. *Lord Haile's Annals of Scotland* vol. i. p. 267."

See also *Rees's Cyclopædia*, articles, *ADVOCATION*, *Bill of*, and *ADVOCATION*, *Letters of*; where this verb is used in the same technical sense.



(the word *freshet*, for example, which see) because it was to be found in *Milton* or in *Burke*, unless it were also in general use at the present day among Englishmen.

#### ALIENISM. Alienage.

The following is the only instance, in which I have ever met with this word in an American work: "The prisoner was convicted of murder; on his arraignment he suggested his *alienism*, which was admitted." 2 *Jahson's New York Reports*, 381.

The term *alienage* is common in professional books, though it is not in the English dictionaries: "Where he sues as executor &c. the plaintiff's *alienage* is no plea." *Larves' Pleading in Assumpsit*, p. 687; *et passim*.

To ALLOT (with the preposition *upon*.) *Ex.* I allot upon going to such a place.

This verb is used only in conversation, and that chiefly in the *interior* of New England. But it is never heard among people of education. Some use the verb *to count upon* in the same manner.

#### ALONE.

This is often heard from our pulpits in expressions like the following: The *alone* God; the *alone* motive, &c. This use of the term, however, is not exclusively *American*. It is to be found in some old English writers, but is now almost wholly obsolete. Dr. Johnson cites the following instance from *Bentley*: "God by whose *alone* power and conversation we all live and move and have our being." I have also met with an instance of it in a *modern* English pamphlet cited in one of the reviews (which, by the way, speaks contemptuously of the work) and the word in question is put in *Italics* by the reviewers:

“The Legislature never pretended to omnipotence ; that is the *alone* attribute of the people.” See *Brit. Crit.* for March 1797 ; vol. ix. p. 324.

AMERICANISM. “A love of America and preference of her interest.” *Webst. Dict.*

This word sometimes occurs, in *this sense*, in our newspapers as well as in conversation. But it was coined by Dr. Witherspoon (as he says) many years ago, to denote “an use of phrases or terms, or a construction of sentences, even among persons of rank and education [in America] different from the use of the same terms or phrases, or the construction of similar sentences in Great Britain.” In *this sense* it is, as he justly observes, “similar in its formation and signification to the word *Scotticism* ;” and it has accordingly been generally so used in America, as well as in England.

To AMERICANIZE. “To render American.” *Webst. Dict.* I have never met with this verb in any American work, nor in conversation.

ANNULMENT. *Ec.* “The *annulment* of the belligerent edicts.” *Correspondence of the Secretary of State (Mr. Smith) and Mr. Pinkney ; July 5, 1810.*

This substantive was not to be found in any of the English dictionaries, till it was admitted into Mr. Todd’s new edition of Johnson ; where it is noted, as one of the editor’s additions, and is given, without any authority, as follows : “ANNULMENT, *n. s.* [Fr. *annullement*.] the act of annulling.”

ANSWER.

This term is always used by us to signify the Reply of the Senate or House of Representatives to the *Speech* of the President (or of the Governor of a state,) at the opening of a session of the Legislature. In *En-*

*gland* this is always called, in *parliamentary* language, the *Address*. This signification of the term *address* was not noticed by Dr. *Johnson*, but it has been added to the new edition of his *Dictionary* by the Rev. Mr. *Todd*.

**AN'T**; for *am not*, *are not*, and sometimes for *is not*.

“I have been surprised (says Dr. Witherspoon) to see some persons of education and character introduce the mere vulgarisms of discourse in the pulpit, or at the bar; such as, *I an't*, *I can't*, *I shan't*.” *Lectures on Eloquence*; lect. 3.

These “vulgarisms” are much less common than they were when Dr. Witherspoon wrote; and if our clergymen and lawyers sometimes employ them in *speaking*, they always avoid them in their *printed* works.

**ANTAGONIZING.** Conflicting, opposing.

This word has been censured, by an American critic, in the following passage of a well known American publication.—“Nor can I forbear to remark the tendency of such *antagonizing* appeals.” *Letter of the Hon. J. Q. Adams to the Hon. H. G. Otis*. This is the only instance in which I have known it to be used in this country. *Johnson* has the verb *to antagonize*; but his authority is the *Dictionaries*; and he says in his preface, that such words in his work “are to be considered as resting only upon the credit of those dictionaries.” Mr. *Webster* has not inserted it in his dictionary.

**ANTIFEDERALIST.**

This word was formed about the year 1788, to denote a person of the political party, that opposed the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, which was then always spoken of by the name of the

*Federal Constitution.* The word is not now much used : having been superseded by various other names, which have been successively given to the same party. See *Federalist*.

#### ANY MANNER OF MEANS.

A friend, who has resided in *Connecticut*, informs me, that this expression (among others) used to be the subject of animadversion, with the instructors of the college there, as a very common fault in the language of the *Bar* of that state.

#### ANXIETUDE.

I never saw this word but once in any of our publications : and that was only in a newspaper.

**APPELLATE.** Relating to appeals : “In all cases affecting ambassadors, &c. the Supreme Court shall have *original* jurisdiction : In all the other cases before mentioned the Supreme Court shall have *appellate* jurisdiction.” *Constitut. of U. States, art. 3.*

This is criticised as an *American* word in an English review of *Marshall's Life of Washington*. The reviewer's remark is, that Judge Marshall uses “*appellate court for court of appeals; appellate being the term applicable to the person against whom the appeal is made.*” *Annual Rev. for 1808, p. 241.* The reviewer probably consulted *Johnson*, who cites from Ayliffe's *Parergon* [of the Canon law] the following expression—“the name of the party *appellate*, or person against whom the appeal is made.” But *Mason*, in his Supplement, makes the following remark upon this citation : “Johnson gives this word for a *substantive*, and produces an authority from Ayliffe proving it to be an *adjective*. The sense there is, *appealed against*; but it is also used for *created on appeal*: ‘The king of France is not the fountain of justice; the judges neither the original nor the *appellate* are of his nomina-

tion." *Burke.*" *Reflections on the Revolution in France* &c. p. 216. of vol. 3. of his *Works*, Boston edit. The word is here used by Burke as it is in America. Blackstone, I think, never uses the word *appellate*, but adopts a circumlocution: "The next court that I shall mention is one that hath no *original* jurisdiction, but is only a *court of appeal*." 3. *Black. Com.* 31. "The house of peers having at present no *original* jurisdiction over causes, but only *upon appeals*." p. 56. It has however been used by some later writers in Great Britain: "An appeal presupposes, in order to be effectual, a decided superiority in the court of *appellate* jurisdiction." *Edinb. Rev.* vol. xxi. p. 110; and again at p. 120. "Consent cannot give original jurisdiction to a court that has only an *appellate* jurisdiction." *Hawkins' Pleas of the Crown* by Leach. B. i. c. 76. § 132; where the editor cites 2 *Burrow's Reports* 746. But the word *appellate* is here the language of the editor, and is not used in the case referred to. A correspondent has favoured me with the following remarks upon the word: "If *appellate*, in the sense in which it is employed in the Constitution of the United States, has not found its way into English dictionaries, it has found its way into English minds. An Englishman would contest its use by others neither in speaking nor in writing; even if he had not adopted it in his own phraseology. Burke's use of it is perfectly justifiable; and as the word is intelligible to every scholar, and is pointed, useful and sonorous; it may be considered much more as English in Burke's sense of it, than it is in *Ayliffe's*; with whom it is merely "technical." A.

The word has at length "found its way" into an English dictionary; being adopted, from Mason's work, by the Rev. Mr. Todd, in his edition of *Johnson*.

APPLICANT. A diligent student.

This word has been much used at our colleges. The English have the verb *to apply*, but the noun *applicant*, in this sense, does not appear to be in use among them. The only dictionary in which I have found it with this meaning is *Entick's*, in which it is given under the word *Applicier*. Mr. Todd has the term *applicant*, but it is only in the sense of "he who applies for any thing." An American reviewer, in his remarks on Mr. *Webster's Dictionary*, takes notice of the word, observing, that it "is a mean word;" and then adds, that "Mr. Webster has not explained it in the most common sense, a *hard student*." *Monthly Anthology*, vol. vii. p. 263. A correspondent observes—"The utmost that can be said of this word among the English is, that perhaps it is occasionally used in conversation; at least, to signify one who asks (or applies) for something." *A*.

TO APPRECIATE. *v. neut.* To rise in value.

The reviewer quoted in the preceding article makes the following remark on this word: "He [Mr. Webster] gives •*appreciate v. to value, estimate, rise in value*:" yet this third signification, being neuter or intransitive, is not, we believe, found in a single *English* author; and in the United States is only admitted into genteel company by inadvertence." *Month. Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 263. See also *Depreciate*.

APPRECIATION. "A rising in value." *Webst. Dict.*

The remarks on our use of the verb *appreciate* are equally applicable to this noun.

TO APPROBATE.

This was formerly much used at our colleges instead of the old English verb *approve*. The students used to speak of having their performances

*approved* by the instructors. It is also now in common use with our clergy as a sort of technical term, to denote a person who is *licensed to preach*; they would say, such a one is *approved*, that is, *licensed to preach*. It is also common in *New England* to say of a person, who is licensed by the county courts to sell spirituous liquors, or to keep a public house, that he is *approved*; and the term is adopted in the law of Massachusetts on this subject. It is not now in the English dictionaries; but Mr. Todd (under the obsolete adjective APPROBATE) says—"Cockram's old vocabulary, notices the verb '*approve*, to allow, to like.'" *Todd's Johnson*.

#### To ARRIVE.

It is remarked by Englishmen, that *we* in many cases employ the auxiliary verb *to have* with this and some other verbs of a similar nature, with which the English more commonly use the auxiliary *to be*. We generally say, for example, the ship *has* arrived; when he *had* arrived, &c. The English would in such cases use *to be*, as in the following examples: "We *are* now arrived at the end of a laborious task," &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. viii. p. 606. "Because the art of engraving and the manner of colouring such figures *was* not arrived, in his earlier days, to the degree of perfection in which we now see it." *Brit. Crit.* vol. iv. p. 255. And we find the rule laid down by the grammarians accordingly. See *Lorath's Grammar*, chap. on the Verb; and *Murray*, (*who adopts Lorath's rule*) on Verbs, sect. 8. and on Syntax, Rule xi.

ASSOCIATION. "A convention of clergymen. *New England.*" *Webst. Dict.* See *Consociation*.

ASSOCIATIONAL. (*From the preceding noun.*)

"In order to obtain a license, and afterwards, to

he admitted to ordination, they [students in divinity] must in each case pass through the *Associational* or *Presbyterial* examination, mentioned above." *Remarks on the Review of Iuchiquin's Letters published in the Quarterly Review* ; p. 56, Boston 1815.

This adjective is seldom to be met with. I have never seen it in any other instance.

AT for BY. Used in this expression: "Sales *at* auction."

The English say—"Sales *by* auction;" and this is in analogy with the expressions—Sales *by* inch of candle ; sales *by* private contract. Accordingly Dr. Johnson, under the words *Auction* and *To Auction*, has these expressions—"the things sold *by* auction—to sell *by* auction."

The term *auction* is defined by Johnson, "a manner of sale;" and this signification seems to require the preposition *by*. But English writers sometimes use it (with the *article*, however) as we do, for the *sale* merely: "Those execrable wretches, who could become purchasers *at the* auction of their innocent fellow-citizens." *Burke's Reflections*, p. 253. *Boston edit.* "But when the leaders choose to make themselves bidders *at an* auction of popularity," &c. *ib.* p. 263. *Burke* sometimes also makes use of *to*, where we should use *at*, with this word: "To put up their properties *to* auction." *ib.* p. 200.

ATTACK'D-ED.

Dr. Witherspoon notices this among his "*Vulgarisms in America*," and gives the following example: "This is the weapon with which he defends himself when he is *attackted*, for *attacked*; or, according to the abbreviation, *attack'd*." *Druid*, No. 6.

This corruption at the present day is, in our *seaport* towns, confined to the most illiterate people.



But I have understood, that in the *interior*, it is sometimes heard among persons of a somewhat higher class. It should be remarked, that it is used by the *vulgar* in *London*, as well as in this country.

#### TO ATTAIN.

The use of this verb, without the preposition *to*, has been said to be peculiar to *American* writers; but this is not the case. Dr. Campbell (*Philos. of Rhet.* B. ii. ch. 2. p. 206. *Boston ed.*) ranks this verb among those “which are used either *with* or *without* a preposition indiscriminately.”

So far as my own observation extends, the *English* writers generally *omit* the preposition, when the verb governs a *relative pronoun*: “They have advantages *which*, among the ordinary classes of writers, analysis and system rarely *attain*.” Dr. Parr’s review of *Combe’s Horace*, in the *Brit. Crit.* vol. iii. p. 49. “That plainness and clearness *which* Dr. Priestley seldom fails to *attain*.” *B. Crit.* vol. vi. p. 175.

AUCTION. See remarks on the word *At*.

AUTHORESS. “A female author, a female writer.” *Webst. Dict.*

This word has, with us, been in as common use as *author*. But its admission into the language has been contested in *England*. It is not in *Johnson’s* dictionary; and *Ash* says (but this was forty years ago) it is a word “not much used.” The *British Critic*, in the year 1793, says of it—“We do not acknowledge this word.” vol. ii. p. 277. Since that time, however, it has been occasionally used in that review—See, for instance, vol. xxi. p. 108; for the year 1803; and vol. xlii. p. 374 and 381, for the year 1814. But the word *author* is more commonly applied, in that work, to female writers. *Authoress* is used in the *Edinburgh Review*. See, for instance, vol. ii. p. 212.

Mr. Todd has admitted *authoress* into his edition of *Johnson*; not, however, in the signification in question, but only in Johnson's second, or more general sense of the word *author*; that is "the efficient; he that effects or produces any thing;" and Mr. Todd accordingly defines it—"a female efficient."

**AUTHORITY.** "In *Connecticut*, the Magistracy, or body of Justices." *Webst. Dict.*

This term has also been used in some other States. It occurs in the ancient laws of *Massachusetts*: See *Mass. Colony Laws*, p. 28. edit. of 1672. A friend has also given me the following instance of it in a well known writer of the present day. "The *authority* required him to give bonds for his good behaviour." *History of New-England*, by Miss Hannah Adams, p. 64. It is also used in some of the States, in speaking collectively of the professors &c. of our colleges, to whom the *government* of those institutions is entrusted.

**AVAILED.**

Dr. Witherspoon thus notices, among his "*Americanisms*," a mode of using this participle: "The members of a popular government should be *availed* of the situation and condition of every part."—"The author of this did not know," he adds, "that *avail* is neither an active nor passive, but a reciprocal verb; a man is said to *avail himself* of any thing, but not to *avail others*, or be *availed* by them." *Druid*, No. 7. I have observed this idiom in one or two instances in *conversation*; but no American would, at this day, use it in *writing*.

**AVAILS.** "Proceeds of property sold, produce. *Connecticut*." *Webst. Dict.*

The English reviewers notice this word in a late American work, by putting it in *Italics*: "Expecting

to subsist on the bounty of government, rather than on the *avails* of their own industry.' " *Stoddard's Sketches of Louisiana*, as cited in the *Eclectic Review* for August 1813, p. 118. In *England*, (says a correspondent) "it is a word now antiquated." *A.*

#### TO AVERAGE.

The use of this as a *neuter* verb is not, as some persons have supposed, peculiar to us ; as will appear from the following example : "The fall [of snow] *averaged* full twenty inches, which unusual depth was formed in little more than six hours." *London Star*, of January 27, 1814, in a *Plymouth* article. It is not to be found in the dictionaries as a verb *neuter* ; but in its *active* sense, that is, *to proportion*, or *to reduce to a mean*, it has been admitted into Mr. Todd's edition of Johnson.

#### AVERSE.

*American* writers, till within some years past, generally employed the preposition *to* instead of *from* with this adjective. Dr. *Witherspoon* thinks, that "as *averse* properly signifies turned away, it seems an evident improvement, to say *averse from* ;" (*Lectures on Eloquence*, *Lect.* 3,) and the *Scottish* writers generally seem to have preferred this. Dr. Campbell, however, observes, that "the words *averse* and *aversion* are more properly construed with *to* than with *from*. The examples in favour of the latter preposition, are beyond comparison outnumbered by those in favour of the former. The argument from etymology is here of no value, being taken from the use of another language. If by the same rule we were to regulate all nouns and verbs of Latin origin, our present syntax would be overturned." *Campb. Rhet.* B. ii. ch. 2. § 1. *not.* Mr. Todd has the following remarks upon it : "Very frequently, but improperly [used with] *to*, Dr. Johnson

says ; but, as Campbell in his *Philosophy of Rhetoric*, observes, *from* is the Latin idiom ; and *to* is more agreeable to the analogy of our language ; dislike and hatred, words synonymous with *averseness* and *aversion*, being so construed. Perhaps a number of examples with *from* to *averse* and *aversion*, before Clarendon, might be brought to shew its prevalence *then* over the usage of *to*. But the latter seems now to prevail." *Todd's Johnson*.

AWFUL. Disagreeable, ugly. *New England*.

In New England many people would call a disagreeable medicine, *awful* ; an ugly woman, an *awful*-looking woman ; a perverse, ill-natured child, that disobeys his parents, would be said to behave *awfully* ; &c. This word, however, is never used except in conversation, and is far from being so common in the *sea-ports* now, as it was some years ago. A late English traveller has the following remarks upon this, among other words : " I found in several instances that the *country*-people of Vermont and other New England states make use of many curious phrases and quaint expressions in their conversation, which are rendered more remarkable by a sort of *nasal twang* which they have in speaking.\*

\* This *nasal twang*, as Mr. Lambert observes, is very common in New England, among the "*country*-people." In the *sea-port* towns also, people of all classes undoubtedly have a slower and more deliberate manner of speaking than the English ; and, in some instances, they fall into a *drawing* pronunciation. An American, however, is not likely to be sensible of this, unless he has been absent from his country for some time, and his ear has been familiarized to the pronunciation of Englishmen. Our peculiarities in *pronunciation* (as well as in *expressions*) would afford a subject for many remarks ; but it is not within the plan of the present work to notice them. Indeed, this is becoming the less necessary every day ; as there is a general and increasing disposition to regulate our pronunciation by that of *Walker*.

Every thing that creates surprise is *awful* with them ; ‘what an *awful* wind ! *awful* hole ! *awful* bill ! *awful* mouth ! *awful* nose !’”\* &c. *Travels through Canada and the United States, by John Lambert, London 1814; vol. ii. p. 505.*

**BACK AND FORTH.** Backwards and forwards. *Ex.* He was walking *back and forth*.

This is a very common expression in *New England*; but it is used only in conversation.

#### **BACKWOODSMEN.**

A name given by the people of the *commercial* towns in the United States, to those who inhabit the territory westward of the Allegany mountains. “The project of transmuting the classes of American citizens and converting sailors into *backwoodsmen*, is not too monstrous for speculatists to conceive and desire.” *Works of Fisher Ames, p. 144.*

This word is commonly used as a term of reproach (and that, only in the familiar style.) to designate those people, who, being at a distance from the sea and entirely *agricultural*, are considered as either hostile or indifferent to the interests of the *commercial* states.

#### **BALANCE.**

This mercantile word is much used by the people of the *Southern* States in conversation, as a general term signifying the *remainder* of *any thing*. *Ex.* I spent a part of the evening at a friend’s house, and the *balance* at home : A quarter part of the army were killed and the *balance* taken prisoners, &c. The word is also often used in the debates of Congress, as I am informed (but only by the *Southern* members) in the following manner : A member moves, that the first section of a bill should be amended, and the *balance* of the bill struck out.

\* It is applied, not to what creates *surprise*, but *dislike*, or *disgust*.

## BANDITTI.

The use of this word, as a noun of the *singular* number, in Judge Marshall's *Life of Washington*, is censured in the *Annual Review* (vol. vii. p. 241.) as one of the faults in the language of that work. The passage alluded to by the reviewers is this: "The expulsion or suppression of a *banditti* of tories collecting on Long Island." *Life of Wash.* vol. ii. p. 285. Judge Marshall more commonly uses it as a *plural* noun: "The perpetrators of the late murders were *banditti* composed of Creeks and Cherokees." vol. v. p. 281. But it is sometimes used as a *singular* noun by the writers of Great Britain: "On his return from Rome, knowing that he was way-laid by a *banditti*," &c. *Andrews's History of G. Britain*, vol. i. p. 229; as cited in *B. Crit.* iv. p. 515. And the following instance is from a distinguished *English review*: "It was indeed a noble triumph of a ferocious *banditti* in arms over helpless women," &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. ii. p. 245.

## BANK-BILL. A bank-note.

It is remarkable that neither Dr. Johnson, nor the other lexicographers have the term *bank-note*, though they all have *bank-bill*, which Johnson defines—"a note for money laid up in a bank, at the sight of which the money is paid." His authority is a passage from *Swift's* will—"Let three hundred pounds be paid her out of my ready money or *bank-bills*." The same phraseology occurs in another part of the will; but it is not certain that *Swift* (or the scrivener who drew his will) intended by *bank-bills* what are now called *bank-notes* in England, as will presently appear; if he did, however, the term *bank-note* was then also in use; and, at the present day, is the only name given to what are called *bank-bills* in *America*. See *Rees's Cyclopaedia*, article BANK OF ENGLAND. In the *American* additions to that work, however, *Bank-bill* is generally used.

The term *bank-bill* seems to have been used formerly in England to denote a bank security, which differed in some respects from common *bank-notes*. From a case before Lord Holt in the year 1698 (just after the bank of England was incorporated) it seems, that the *bank-bills* were issued in the *real names of the original holders*, and *were renewed*, on request, in the names of the subsequent owners. See 1 *Lord Raymond's Reports*, 738. It will appear also from the following authority, that there was another difference between *bills* and *notes*: —“Upon this the credit of the bank [of England] recovered immediately, until in a few weeks their *notes*, which bore *no interest*, were equal with money; and their *bills*, that bore *interest*, better than money.” *Tindal's Continuation of Rapin's Hist. of Engl.* vol. iii. p. 335, folio edit. The English statutes for preventing forgeries of the bank-securities also use both the terms; and, apparently, to signify two different things.

An English friend has given me the following remarks on this subject: “The practice of the Bank of England has possibly varied at different periods. For many years past their current paper has been payable to the bearer of it, and called *Bank-notes*. But bills are occasionally issued by this bank to accommodate specific individuals, who wish to send a form of bank-paper by post, which requires endorsement; and these are called *Bank post-bills*. There is but one incorporated banking institution for England and Wales; and the banks of associated individuals in these two countries (which in no case can have more than six partners) issue paper bearing *different names*, according to the objects of it. Various departments of the English government issue paper bearing the name of *bills*; as *Exchequer bills*, *Navy bills*, &c.” A.

**BARBECUE.** *Used in the Southern states.*

The following extract from the work of an *English* traveller in America will explain the meaning of this term, and at the same time vindicate the people of Virginia from the calumnies of prejudiced foreigners: "Mons. de Willd, in his French translation of these travels, makes the following observation upon the word *barbacue*:—Cet amusement barbare consiste à fouëtter les porcs jusqu'à la mort pour en rendre la chair plus delicate. Je ne sache pas que les cannibales mêmes le pratiquent.\*" In justice to the inhabitants of Virginia, I must beg leave to observe, that such a cruel and inhuman act was never, to my knowledge at least, practised in that country. A *barbacue* is nothing more than a porket killed in the usual way, stuffed with spices and other rich ingredients, and basted with Madeira wine. It is esteemed a very great delicacy, and is, I believe, a costly dish." *Burnaby's Travels in North America*, 3d edit. 4to, London 1798, p. 29. This term, however, is not peculiar to the *United States*; it is used in the *West Indies* also. See *Johnson's Dictionary*.

**To BASE.** To found, to build upon as a basis.

A few of our writers have adopted this Gallicism; but it is not in common use. The *English* verb *to base* (according to Dr. Johnson) signifies "to make less valuable by admixture of meaner metals; figuratively, to degrade." But it is obsolete.

**BE.**

This was formerly much used in *New England* instead of *am* and *are*, in phrases of this kind: *Be* you ready? *Be* you going? *I be*, &c. It was also common in

\* *Translation.* This barbarous amusement is, whipping hogs to death, in order to make their flesh the more delicate. I do not know that even cannibals practise it.



England, as long ago as when our ancestors left that country ; and is often used in the Bible : “They that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.” 2 Kings, vi. 16 ; and in various other places. It is still used in some of the *provincial* dialects of England. A writer in the *Monthly Magazine* (for Sept. 1814, p. 126) observes, that the people of *Somersetshire* “make use of the word *be* nearly through the whole of the present tense of the verb *to be* ; as I *be*, thou *beest*, (*pronounced* bist,) he is ; we, you, they *be*.” And Mr. *Marshall* says, that “*be* is generally used for *is* in Gloucestershire.” See his *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire*. The use of *be* is not so common in *New England* at the present day, as it was some years ago ; it is seldom heard now, except in the interior towns or among the vulgar. The vulgar, indeed, also frequently employ it instead of the auxiliary *to have* ; as, *be* you got it, for *have* you got it.

Dr. *Witherspoon* notices also, as an *Americanism*, the omission of this verb in expressions like the following : “These things were *ordered delivered* to the army,” for *ordered to be delivered*, &c. He then adds—“I am not certain whether this is a local expression, or general, in America.” *Druid*, No. 5. This omission of *to be* is, I think, rare at the present day.

EAKER. A tumbler.

Not many years ago this word was in common use in *New England*, and, I believe, in some other parts of the United States ; but it is now seldom heard except among old people. It is in the dictionaries, but I never heard it in *England*. A correspondent, however, observes, that “it has been occasionally used in some parts of England so low down as within half a century.” *A*.

*Bailey* defines it simply “a drinking-cup,” and gives the etymology of it as follows : “Probably of *Beker*,

*Dutch* : Becker, *Germ.* : Baker, *Ital.* : whence Bacrio, *Lat.*" See the folio edit. of Bailey, of 1736. But Dr. Johnson derives it from *beak*, and defines it, "a cup with a spout in the form of a bird's beak." Mr. Todd however observes, that "both his etymology and definition are incorrect. Our word is the Germ. *becher*, a cup; Ital. *bicchiere*; low Lat. *baccharium*, fancifully derived from *Bacchus*. V. Du Cange. *Bicker* in the Northumb. dialect, is a quart vessel, about two inches and a half deep. made with small staves or hoops." *Todd's Johnson*. Every traveller in *Holland* must have observed, that the word *beker* is a common name there for a tumbler, or drinking cup.

#### TO BELITTLE.

A well-known English Review, in enumerating the faults of our writers, thus mentions this, among other words: "President Jefferson [talks] of *belittling* the productions of nature." *Quart. Rev.* vol. x. p. 528. The passage here alluded to, is in Mr. Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, Query 6th. The word is sometimes heard here in *conversation*; but in *writing*, it is, I believe, peculiar to that gentleman.

BESTOWMENT. "The act of conferring." *Webst. Dict.*

This word is often heard from the *pulpit*, and has sometimes appeared in *print*. It has been noticed by one of our reviewers, as a word "used without any authority," in a work published a few years ago. See a review of *Discourses on Public Occasions illustrating the principles, &c. of Free Masonry*, by Thaddeus M. Harris; in the *New York American Review*, vol. i. p. 349.

I do not find the word in any of the dictionaries, except the *English* part of *Ainsworth's*. Mr. Todd, in his edition of *Johnson*, has *bestowal*, (for which, however, he cites no authority,) but not *bestowment*.

**BETTERMENTS.** (Generally used in the *plural* number.)

The improvements made on new lands, by cultivation, and the erection of buildings, &c.

This term was first used, as I have understood, in the State of *Vermont*; but it has for a long time been common in the State of *New Hampshire*: And it has been getting into use in some parts of *Massachusetts*, since the passing of the late law, similar to the *Betterment Acts* (as they are called) of the states abovementioned. It is not to be found in Mr *Webster's*, nor in any of the *English* dictionaries that I have seen, except *Ash's*; and there it is called "a bad word." It is thus noticed by an English traveller in this country, in speaking of those people who enter upon new lands without any right and proceed to cultivate them: "These men demand either to be left owners of the soil or paid for their *betterments*, that is, for what they have done towards clearing the ground." *Travels in the United States*, by *E. A. Kendall*, vol. iii. p. 160.

**BLUFF.**

This is noticed by a late English traveller as an *Americanism*: "The town of Savannah is built upon an open sandy plain, which forms a cliff, or, as the Americans term it, a *bluff*, by the shore, about fifty feet above the level of the river." *Travels in Canada and the United States*, by *John Lambert*, vol. ii. p. 263. London, 1814. The term is not in the dictionaries.

This is, however, a well-known *nautical* term among the *English*: "Bluff; a bluff or high land." *Vocabulary of Sea Phrases &c.* by a Captain of the *British Navy*. London, 1799. The dictionaries all have *bluff* as an adjective.

**BOATABLE.** "Navigable with boats." *Webst Diet.* *Ex.*

"The Seneca Indians say, they can walk four times a

day from the *boatable* waters of the Allegany to those of the Tyoga." *Morse's American Geography*.

This word is rarely used by Americans, and never by *Englishmen*, in *writing*. A correspondent, however, remarks, that "in very familiar discourse, it is perhaps used among some of the English; but it has scarcely a right to be called a classical word." *A*. It is not in the dictionaries.

**BOATING.** "Conveying, or the practice of transporting in boats." *Webst. Dict.*

This, as well as the preceding word, seems to be a part of the *technical* language of boatmen, as *carting* is of *carters*, &c. I do not find it noticed by any of the English lexicographers except *Ash*.

#### BOOK-STORE.

The *Edinburgh Review* notices the use of this term as one of our peculiarities: "Their *booksellers' shops* passing under the name of *book-stores*." *Ed. Rev.* vol. xvii. p. 121. It is common throughout the United States.

**To BOTTOM.** *v. act.*

This verb has been much used in the United States, in the debates of our legislative bodies, and has been supposed by some persons to be an *Americanism*; but this is not the case. It does not, however, seem to be much used by English writers of the present day. Dr. *Johnson's* authorities are, *Hale*, *Collins*, *Atterbury*, and *Locke*; the last of whom uses it also as a *neuter* verb, in the following sentence quoted by Johnson: "Find out upon what foundation any proposition advanced, *bottoms*." [*Thoughts concerning Reading and Study*.] *Burke* also uses it both as an *active* and a *neuter* verb—"But an absurd opinion concerning the king's hereditary right to the crown does not prejudice one that is rational and *bottomed* upon solid principles of law and policy." *Burke's Reflections*; vol.

iii. p. 43, of *his Works*, *Boston edit.* "All the oblique insinuations concerning election, *bottom* in this proposition," &c. *ibid.* p. 33. I have also met with an instance of it in a well-known English review: "Most of our Laws respecting personal rights are *bottomed* upon it, [i. e. the Roman Law.] *Brit. Crit.* vol. xxi. p. 17.

Yet the use of this verb seems to be considered as one of our peculiarities by an *English* writer, whose "advice to the Americans" (says the *Monthly Review*) "merits attentive consideration on their part." An English friend, however, observes, that, "notwithstanding the opinion of this writer, *bottomed* is a sound English word, if used as in the citation from Burke." *A.\**

#### BOTTOM-LANDS.

In *Pennsylvania* and some other States this name is given to the rich flat land on the banks of rivers, which in *New England* is generally called *interval-land*, or simply *interval*. A friend observes, that it is "not English; but colloquially *bottoms* may be used as a substantive." *A.* One of Johnson's explanations of *Bottom* is, "a dale, a valley, a low ground."

**BRACK.** "A breach, a broken part." *Johnson.*

This old English word is still used *colloquially* in many parts of *New England*, where it is commonly applied to a breach or flaw in a piece of cloth. In *England* it is *provincial* at the present day. *Horne Tooke* says of it—"Though *Brack*, as a noun, is not much in fashion at present, it was formerly in good and common use:—

\* This and several other words are thus ridiculed by the author quoted in the *Monthly Review*: "Were it not for my *destitution* of leisure, which obliges me to hasten to the *occlusion* of these pages, as I *progress* I should *nottom* my assertion on instances from authors of the first *grade*; but were I to render my sketch *lengthy*, I should *illy* answer the purpose which I have in view." *A Political Sketch of America*, cited in the *Monthly Review*, vol. lvi. p. 104.

'Let not a BRACK i' th' stuff, or here and there  
'The fading gloss, a general loss appear.'

*B. and Fletcher, Epilogue to Valentinian.*" *Diversions of Purley*, part 2. The *London Monthly Magazine* notices it as a provincialism of *Essex and Somersetshire*. See vols. xxxvii. p. 498, and xxxviii. p. 126.

**BRASH.** Brittle.

This term is used in some parts of New England, in speaking of *wood*, or *timber*, that is brittle. *Ex.* This piece of timber is very *brush*. I do not find *brush* (in this sense) in any of the dictionaries or glossaries. See *Frough*.

**BREACHY.**

This is a common word among the *farmers* of *New England*, in speaking of oxen, &c. that are unruly, and apt to *break* through their enclosures. I do not find it in the dictionaries or glossaries.

**BREAD-STUFF.** Bread-corn, meal, bread.

"One great objection to the conduct of Britain was her prohibitory duty on the importation of *bread-stuff*, &c. *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. v. p. 519.

The *Annual Review* (vol. vii. p. 241.) points out this as one of the *Americanisms* of Judge Marshall's work. The term was first used, I believe, in some of the official papers of our Government, soon after the adoption of the present Constitution: "The articles of exports.....are *bread-stuffs*, that is to say, bread-grains, meals, and bread." *Report of the Secretary of State* (Mr. Jefferson) on *Commercial Restrictions*, &c. Dec. 16, 1793. It has probably been the more readily allowed among us, because we do not, like the English, use the word *corn* as a general name for all sorts of grain, but apply it almost exclusively to *Indian corn*, or *maize*. A friend has favoured me with the following remarks on it: "*Bread-stuff* is American. In *Jamaica*, they have a term for

the esculent roots, &c. substituted for bread; viz. *Bread-kind*. Some generic term is wanting here in these cases, analogous to *lumber*, which is the term used for the whole class of rough wooden materials." *A.* See *Corn*.

#### To BRIDGE.

A peculiar use of this verb in the state of *Connecticut* is thus noticed by an English traveller: "Here a sufficient, though not very agreeable road, is formed by causeys of logs; or, in the language of the country, it is *bridged*. *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 235.

#### BRIEF. Prevalent, common, rife.

This is much used in *New England* by the illiterate, in speaking of a rumour or report, as well as of epidemic diseases. But as a friend observes, "*rife* is oftener used than *brief* in the case of *diseases*;" and I think, *brief* is not so common in the *sea-port* towns, as it is in the *country*. I have not found *brief* in any of the dictionaries except *Bailey's*; in which it is defined, "common or rife;" and is not noted as either an antiquated or a provincial word. But *Grose* ranks it among the *provincialisms* of the *North* of England, and remarks, that it is there "spoken of a contagious distemper." See the *Supplement* to his *Provincial Glossary*. A correspondent informs me, that *brief* is used by the illiterate in *Virginia*, as well as in the *Northern States*; but only in speaking of diseases. It has been generally considered as a mere corruption of *rife*.

#### BRUSH. Brushwood; "lopped branches of trees." *Webst. Dict.*

The word *brush*, in this sense, is not noticed, I believe, by any of the English lexicographers except *Bailey*, whose explanation of it is—"A bundle of small sticks to light a fire." *Bailey's Dict. fol. edit.* 1736. In the *octavo* editions of the same work, however, the word is not given in this

sense ; but the author himself uses it under the word *brushment*, which he defines—"brush, or small wood." *Brush* is, probably, obsolete in England, as applied to small wood, *after it is cut* for fuel ; but it is still used there in speaking of small wood *that is growing*. See *Rees's Cyclop.* art. *Brush*.

**To CALCULATE.** To expect ; suppose ; think. *Ex.* I *calculate* he will do such a thing ; I *calculate* to leave town tomorrow.

The use of this, and some other words, in the "country towns" of New England, is thus ridiculed by a late English traveller : "The crops are *progressing*, says Nathan, though I *calculate* as how this is a *propitious*\* weedy soil." *Lambert's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 506.

**CAN'T.** See remarks on *An't*.

**To CAPTIVATE.** "To take prisoner ; to bring into bondage." *Johnson*.

The use of this word is noticed by the *Edinburgh Reviewers*, in their review of the *American Mineralogical Journal*, published at New York in the year 1810. After mentioning some other words, (which will be found in this Vocabulary,) they say : "Other examples, proving the alteration to which our language has been exposed, chiefly by the introduction of *Gallicisms*, may be noticed in the rest of the Journal ; resembling expressions found in American newspapers, where for '*a ship taken*,' we read of '*a ship captivated*.' The word (in this sense) was so new to me, that in the former edition of this work, I remarked, that I presumed the reviewers were not serious in giving this as a real specimen of our style, but intended it (if the expression might be allowed) merely

\* What this word *propitious* means here, I am at loss to imagine : I never heard it used in any expression like the one here quoted. I presume there is an error of the press, and that possibly it should be *prodigious*.



as a *caricature*; and I added, that I had never seen it thus used, even in our newspapers. I have not yet, indeed, met with it in any of our *newspapers*; but, to my great surprise, I have lately found it in the works of two or three of our *authors*: “Twenty three people were killed in this surprisal, and twenty nine were *captivated*.” *Belknap’s History of New Hampshire*, vol. i. ch. 10. It has also been used by Dr. *Ramsay*: “The singularly interesting event of *captivating* a second royal army [Lord Cornwallis’s] produced strong emotions,” &c. *History of the American Revolution*, vol. ii. p. 274. *Philad. edit.* 1789. From Dr. *Ramsay’s* history, the word has been adopted (as a friend first remarked to me) by an estimable writer, whose great modesty has sometimes led her to employ the language of other authors in preference to her own.\* But the word is not in general use by American authors.

The verb *to captivate*, however, is in the dictionaries in this sense; and Dr. Johnson gives as authorities, *Shakspeare*, *King Charles*, and *Locke*. But, notwithstanding these authorities, *American* writers would hardly be able to justify the use of it at this day, any more than the well-known Scottish writer, Dr. Geddes, could the use of the verb *to captive*, which was justly objected to by the English reviewers. See *Brit. Critic*, vol. iv. p. 153.

#### CAUCUS.

This noun is used throughout the United States, as a *cant* term for those meetings, which are held by the different political parties, for the purpose of agreeing upon candidates for office, or concerting any measure, which they intend to carry at the subsequent *public*, or *town-meetings*. The earliest account I have seen of this extraordinary word is the following, from *Gordon’s History*

\* Miss Hannah Adams. See her *History of New England*, 8vo. edit. p. 471.

of the *American Revolution*, published at London in the year 1788.

“The word *caucus* (says the author) and its derivative *caucusing*, are often used in *Boston*. The last answers much to what we style parliamenteering, or electioneering. All my repeated applications to different gentlemen have not furnished me with a satisfactory account of *caucus*. It seems to mean a number of persons, whether more or less, met together to consult upon adopting and prosecuting some scheme of policy for carrying a favourite point. The word is not of novel invention. More than fifty years ago, Mr. Samuel Adams’s father and twenty others, one or two from the north end of the town, where all the ship-business is carried on, used to meet, make a *Caucus*, and lay their plan for introducing certain persons into places of trust and power. When they had settled it, they separated, and used each their particular influence within his own circle. He and his friends would furnish themselves with ballots, including the names of the parties fixed upon, which they distributed on the days of election. By acting in concert, together with a careful and extensive distribution of ballots, they generally carried the elections to their own mind. In like manner it was, that Mr. Samuel Adams first became a representative for Boston.” *Gordon’s Hist.* vol. i. p. 240, note.

An English traveller, (Mr. Kendall) who has taken notice of many American words, seems to think that this “*felicitous term*” (as he ironically calls it) is applied only to party meetings, or consultations, of the *members of the legislatures* in the different states; but this is not the case. All meetings of parties, for the purpose of concerting any measures, are called by this name.

From the above remarks of Dr. *Gordon*, it should

seem that these meetings were first held in a part of Boston where "all the *ship-business* was carried on;" and I had therefore thought it not improbable that *Caucus* might be a corruption of *Caulkers*, the word meetings being understood. I was afterwards informed by a friend in *Salem*, that the late Judge Oliver often mentioned this as the origin of the word; and upon further inquiry I find other gentlemen have heard the same in *Boston*, where the word was first used. I think I have sometimes heard the expression, *a caucus meeting*. [i. e. *caulkers' meeting*.] It need hardly be remarked, that this *cant* word and its derivatives are never used in good writing.

**CENSUS.** The enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States.

This term is used by us to denote merely the *enumeration* of our inhabitants; which is a departure from the signification of the word in the *Latin* language, from which we have borrowed it. In *England* they still use the old word *enumeration*, except when speaking of this country. As a *technical* term, however, *Census* may be found useful.

**CENT.** "A copper coin of the United States, value one hundredth part of a dollar." *Webst. Dict.*

**CERTAIN.**

Dr. Witherspoon thus censures a mode of using this adjective in America: "A certain Thomas Benson. The word *certain*, as used in English, is an indefinite; the name fixes it precisely, so that there is a kind of contradiction in the expression. In England they would say, a certain person, called or supposed to be Thomas Benson." *Druid*, No. 5. An *English* friend, however, observes, that "a phrase like this, 'a certain Thomas Benson,' stands well in common talk among the English; and may pass occasionally into books." *A.*

## CHAIR.

In the *Southern* States this name is given to that kind of one-horse pleasure-carriage, which in the *Northern* States is generally called by the old English name, *chaise*. A friend has remarked to me, that “*Chair* is a well known term in England for a carriage in use with some of the English gentry, having no top and only two wheels.” *A.*

CHECKERS OR CHEQUERS. The common name in the *Northern* (and perhaps some other) States, for the game, which in England is called *Draughts*.

*Ash* has the ancient word “*Checkere*” for the chess-board, (for which he cites *Chaucer*,) but marks it as *obsolete*. The board is also called a *checker-board* in those parts of this country where the game is called *checkers*. “In *England* (as a friend remarks) this is commonly called a *Draught-board*; and when applied to the playing of *chess* it is called a *Chess-board*.” *A.*

CHIRK. *adj.* “In a comfortable state, cheerful. *New England.*” *Webst. Dict.*

Mr. *Webster* (in another of his works) after observing upon the corrupt change of a final *p* into *k* in another word, makes the following remark upon the word *chirk*—“By a similar change of the last consonant, *chirk* is used for *chirp*, to make a cheerful noise. This word is wholly lost except in New England. It is there used for *comfortably*, *bravely*, *cheerful*; as when one inquires about a sick person, it is said, he is *chirk*. *Chirp* is still used to express the singing of birds, but the *chirk* of New England is not understood, and therefore derided. Four hundred years ago it was a polite term :

‘And kisseth hire swete, and *chirketh* as a sparwe

‘With his lippes.’—*Chauc. Somp. Tale*, 7386.”

*Webster's Dissertations on the English Language*, p. 387.

The verb *chirk* is not noticed, I believe, by any of the British lexicographers except *Bailey*, (who also cites *Chaucer* as his authority for it,) and *Ash*. They, however, have to *chirp*, in the sense of *to make cheerful*; and some of them, in the sense of *to become cheerful*.

It should be remarked, that the adjective *chirk* is used only in the interior of New England; and even there, I think, only by the illiterate. It is never heard in the sea-port towns.

CHORE. "A small job, domestic work." *Webst. Dict.*

Mr. *Webster* remarks, that "*Chore*, a corruption of *char*, is an English word, still used in many parts of England, as a *char-man*, a *char-woman*; but in America, it is perhaps confined to *New England*. It signifies small domestic jobs of work, and its place cannot be supplied by any other single word in the language." *Dissertations on the English Language*, p. 112.

*Char*, both as a verb and a noun, is in all the English dictionaries, and is not mentioned as either out of use, or provincial. But *Grose* has it in his *Glossary*, as one of the provincialisms of the North of England. "*Char*; a particular business or task. That *char* is charred, that job is done; I have a little *char* for you. Hence *char-woman*, and going out *charing*." He adds, that it is "pronounced in *Wilts*, a *cheure*," which approaches to our word *chore*. *Walker* says of it, "In *Ireland* they seem to have retained the genuine pronunciation of this, as well as many other old English words; I mean that which is agreeable to the orthography, and rhyming with *tar*. In *English* it is generally heard like *chair* to sit on, and its compound *char-woman* like *chair-woman*." See also *Diversions of Purley*.

CHRISTIANIZATION.

This substantive (as an obliging friend first remarked

to me) is to be found occasionally in our religious publications. The verb to *christianize*, which is in the dictionaries, is in use among the *English* writers; but this *substantive*, I believe, is never employed by them.

#### CHUNK.

Dr. Witherspoon thus notices this word: "Chunks, that is brands. half-burnt wood. This is customary in the *Middle Colonies*." *Druid*, No. 7. It is also used in the *Northern States*, to signify a thick, short block or bit of wood. In *England* it is *provincial*: "Chuck; a great chip. *Sussex*. In other counties they call it a *Chunk*." *Ray's South and East Country Words*. Grose says it is also called in some counties a *junk*. See his *Prov. Gloss*. The vulgar in this country also (by whom these words are chiefly used) say *junk* and *chunk*; and from this last substantive they have formed the adjective *chunky*, which they often apply to the stature of a person; as, he is a short, *chunky* man. The *English* dictionaries have neither *chunk* nor *junk*; but all of them have *chump*, in the sense in question.

#### CHURCH.

This word in *Johnson's* third signification (that is, a place of worship) is generally used in *New-England*, to denote the places of worship of the *Episcopalians*, as they are here called. The places of worship of the other denominations of Christians are called *Meeting-houses*. In the *Southern States*, I believe, the word *Church* is used by Christians of all denominations.

A *Church*, as a *body of persons* (to adopt the remarks of a correspondent) "is distinguished in *New England* from a *Congregation*, by the privileges which the former in general reserve to themselves of receiving exclusively in that church the sacrament and baptism; in consequence of their having publicly declared their assent to

the creed which that church maintains. Marriage, burial, and public worship, are open to the members of the congregation at large, according to the forms and methods employed in each church; as are also catechizing for children and visits to the sick." *A. See Member of the Church.*

#### CITESS.

This word, as well as *citizenness*, was used in America during the first years of the French Revolution, as a translation of the Revolutionary title *Citoyenne*; but it has for several years been wholly disused. It has been considered by some of the English reviewers as a word of *American origin*: The *British Critic*, after entering its "protest against the new fangled term of *Citizenness*," (which was used by an *English* translator of *Madame Roland's Appeal*), says: "The *Americans* have coined the term *Citess*, which is better. See our account of the *Bone to gnaw*. But we hope not to see any jargon of the kind adopted." *B. Crit.* vol. vii. p. 367; for April, 1791. *Citess*, however, in the sense of "a city woman," is in *Johnson's* and the other English dictionaries: But it is there said to be "peculiar to *Dryden*."

**CIVISM.** Patriotism, attachment to the public welfare." *Webst. Dict.*

This, like the preceding word, is one of the productions of the French Revolution; and, though frequently used several years ago, is now obsolete here as well as in France. I think it was not more used by *American* than by *English* writers. None of the lexicographers, I believe, except Mr. Webster, have noticed it. See *Incivism*.

**CLAPBOARD.** "A narrow board used to cover buildings." *Webst. Dict.*

In *England* a *clapboard* is a "board formed ready

for the *cooper's* use, in order to make casks or vessels." See *Bailey's Dictionary*, and *Rees's Cyclopædia*, articles BOARD and CLAPBOARD.

#### CLEVER.

This word is in constant use throughout New England, in a sense very different from the English. The following remarks of Dr. Witherspoon will explain the *American* and the *English* significations :

"He is a very *clever* man. She is quite a *clever* woman. How often are these phrases to be heard in conversation? Their meaning, however, would certainly be mistaken when heard for the first time by one born in Britain. In these cases *Americans* generally mean by *clever*, only goodness of disposition, worthiness, integrity, without the least regard to capacity ; nay, if I am not mistaken, it is frequently applied where there is an acknowledged simplicity or mediocrity of capacity. But in *Britain*, *clever* always means capacity, and may be joined either to a good or bad disposition. We say of a man, he is a clever man, a clever tradesman, a clever fellow, without any reflections upon his moral character, yet at the same time it carries no approbation of it. It is exceeding good English, and very common to say, He is a clever fellow, but I am sorry to say it, he is also a great rogue. When *cleverness* is applied primarily to conduct and not to the person, it generally carries in it the idea of art or chicanery not very honourable ; for example—Such a plan I confess was very clever, i. e. sly, artful, well contrived, but not very fair." *Druid*, No. 5.

In speaking of any thing but *man* we use the word much as the English do. We say a *clever* horse, &c.; and it is not uncommon to see in the London news-papers, advertisements in this form—"To be sold a *clever* grey



gelding," &c. Dr. Johnson observes, that it "is a low word, scarcely ever used but in burlesque or conversation, and applied to any thing a man likes, without a settled meaning."

#### CLEVERLY.

This is much used in some parts of *New England* instead of *well* or *very well*. In answer to the common salutation, *How do you do*, we often hear, I am *cleverly*. It is also applied (as a correspondent observes) to other things, as well as to *health*; and "means either adroitly or exactly; according to the case." *A.* This latter use of the word, however, I think is not peculiar to *Americans*.

#### CLITCHY. Clammy, sticky, glutinous.

I have heard this word used in a few instances by old people in New England; but it is very rarely heard. In *Devonshire*, in England, they have the *provincial* word *clatchy*, in this sense; and it is doubtless the same word, a little varied in the pronunciation. See *London Monthly Magazine*, for Jan. 1809, p. 545.

#### CLOSURE. A shutting up; a closing.

I have never seen this word but once in any *American* publication—"Very soon after the *closure* of our ports, I did submit to the consideration of the senate a proposition," &c. *Letter to the Hon. H. G. Otis, by the Hon. J. Q. Adams*, Boston, 1808. The use of the word was objected to by one of our own critics, in "*Remarks and Criticisms*" on this Letter, (published in the *New York Evening Post*) in the following terms: "We object, too, to his new word, *closure*, as it is at best a superfluous word, and has no support in analogy." Dr. Johnson has the word *closure*, upon the authority of *Boyle*; but it seems to be rarely, if ever, used by the writers of the present day.

**CLOTHIER.** A fuller; "one who fulls and scours cloths; in *England*, a maker of cloths." *Webst. Dict.*

Dr. Johnson's quotation from Shakspeare shews that the significations of *clothier* and *fuller*, in *England*, were at that time the same as they are there at the present day :

"The *clothiers* all, not able to maintain  
The many to them 'longing, have put off  
The spinsters, carders, *fullers*, weavers."

It is to be observed, that although we use *clothier* for *fuller*, yet the place, where the cloth is cleansed and dressed, is called a *fulling-mill*.

**To COME.** See remarks on the verb *To Arrive*.

**COMPANIONING.** Used in the following passage of an American poem :

"———Azora's voice,  
*Companioning*, far sweeter than its own."

Upon which one of our own writers makes this remark :  
" *Companioning* is a word invented without taste, low and unpoetical." *Review of Linn's Valerian, a narrative poem, in the Monthly Anthology for 1807, p. 321.* The word was never used in this country, I presume, by any body but the inventor.

**COMPOSUIST.** A writer, composer.

This extraordinary word has been much used at some of our colleges, but very seldom elsewhere. It is now rarely heard among us. A correspondent observes, that "it is used in *England* among *musicians*." *A.* I have never met with it in any English *publications* upon the subject of music.

**To COMPROMIT.** To commit, expose, hazard. *Ex.* The government *compromitted* itself: The minister *compromitted* the welfare of his country, &c.

This word has been frequently used in the official let-

ters, which have been published by our Government; and it has probably (like the French verb *compromettre*, from which we derive it) been considered as an authorized *diplomatic* term. In the former edition of this Vocabulary I remarked, that it was sometimes used by *English* writers. But a correspondent says, "*Compromit*, twenty years ago, was never used in England; and perhaps it stands equally rejected there at the present moment in conversation; as it certainly does with regard to *authors*." He adds, that the verb "*compromise* is used in the best English society." *A.* This last verb often occurs in the Debates of Parliament: "He denied that the good faith of Great Britain had been *compromised* by any of the territorial cessions which had taken place." *Speech of Lord Castlereagh, March 20, 1815.* The English, until lately, used the verb *to commit*, which, however, is not in any of the dictionaries (in this sense) except *Walker's*; and there it is said to have been "first used in Junius's letters."

#### To CONCUR.

A correspondent has reminded me of a peculiar use of this verb, which is not uncommon in some of the Northern States. *Ex.* "The house of Representatives has passed a *Resolve* or *Bill*; it will not *be concurred* by the Senate:" i. e. The Senate will not *concur* with the House in passing it.

#### To CONDUCT.

This verb is much used in New England, in conversation, *without* the reciprocal pronoun: *Ex.* He *conducts* well, instead of, he *conducts himself* well. It is frequently used in this manner also by our *writers*: "There were times when he was obliged to exert all his fortitude, prudence and candour, *to conduct* so as not to give offence." *Eliot's New England Biographical Dictionary,*

p. 29. But this "corrupt idiom" (as an English traveler justly calls it) is not so firmly established here, as to have entirely excluded the correct *English* idiom. "You will *conduct yourself* in the office of an attorney," &c. *Attorney's oath, in Massachusetts Stat. of 1785, c. 23.* And in the valuable work of Dr. E. just cited, the verb is sometimes used *with*, as well as *without*, the pronoun: "No man could have *conducted himself* in this office better." p. 14. It is also constantly used *with* the pronoun in a late work, of a New England scholar, of great purity of style: "In every thing which is innocent or indifferent they should permit him to *conduct himself* by his own discretion." *Sermons on particular occasions*, Boston, 1812. p. 14. The writers of G. Britain invariably use it in this manner. "But in what manner will the House *conduct itself*?" *Fox's Hist. James II.* p. 3. "They took and pillaged several cities, *conducting themselves* all the while, in such a manner," &c. *Robertson's Charles V.* vol. ii. p. 359. Philad. ed. Dr. Johnson also defines the verb *behave*, in these words—"to conduct *one's self*;" and he further remarks, that the verb *behave* also is "used almost always *with* the reciprocal pronoun."

*To CONFLAGRATE.* *Exc.* "With the exception of *conflagrating* the navy-yard."

On this, and some other words, an English friend remarks—"They are so obviously uncouth and ridiculous, that I think they will do little injury, and must be considered as peculiar to the quaintness or ignorance of the single writer that we first observe them in." This word is very rarely to be found in American publications: I have never met with it except in the instance above quoted, which was in a newspaper. It is not in the dictionaries.

## CONGRESS.

This word, originally a *common* name, and still so used in England, has with us become a *proper* name. We, of course, use it *without* the article ; but English writers, in speaking of American affairs, generally use it *with* the article.

CONGRESSIONAL. *Ex.* "The conflict between *Congressional* and State authority originated with the creation of those authorities." *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. v. p. 354.

An American writer calls this one of the "barbarisms in common use with us." See *Monthly Anthology*, vol. vii. p. 263. An English correspondent, however, observes—"The term *Congress* belonging to America, the Americans may employ its derivatives, without waiting for the assent of the English. *Congressional* is analogous to *parliamentary* in some respects." *A.*

## To CONSIDER.

The use of this verb, without *as* after it, is thus criticised by Dr. Witherspoon : "I do not *consider* myself equal to this task. The word *as* is wanting. I am not certain whether this may not be an *English* vulgarism, for it is frequently used by the renowned author of *Common Sense*, who is an Englishman born ; but he has so happy a talent of adopting the blunders of others, that nothing decisive can be inferred from his practice. It is, however, undoubtedly an Americanism, for it is used by authors greatly superior to him in every respect." *Druid*, No. 5. This idiom sometimes occurs in English writers.

## CONSIDERABLE.

This word is still frequently used in the manner pointed out by Dr. Witherspoon in the following remark : "He is *considerable* of a surveyor ; *considerable* of it may be found in the country. This manner of speaking prevails in the northern parts." *Druid*, No. 7.

## CONSOCIATION.

This term, which signifies (as Mr. Webster explains it) “a convention of pastors and messengers of churches,” is used in *Connecticut*; and I had supposed it to be peculiar to that State; at least, in the sense in question. But I find (as a clerical friend first informed me) that it was used in the “Result of the Synod” at *Boston* in the year 1662; though perhaps, not exactly in the sense which it has in *Connecticut*: “*Consociation* of churches, is their mutual and solemn agreement to exercise communion in such acts as aforesaid, amongst themselves, with special reference to those churches, which by Providence are placed in a convenient vicinity, though with liberty reserved without offence, to make use of others, as the nature of the case, or the advantage of opportunity may lead thereunto.” *Question ii.* The word, however, is not in use in *Massachusetts* at the present day.

## CONSTABLE.

The following distinction is made by Mr. Webster, between the English and American significations of this word: “In *England*, a governor or commander; in *America*, a town-officer of the peace with the powers of an under-sheriff.” A writer in the *Monthly Anthology* speaks of this as “an idle attempt to exhibit a distinction between them.” *Entick* and other lexicographers define constable, “a kind of peace-officer;” and it is the fact, I believe, that in many of the cities, boroughs, and other local jurisdictions in *England*, they have peace officers called *constables*, whose powers are not materially, if at all, different from those of *our* constables.

## CONSTERNATED.

I never met with this uncommon word in the writings of any Americans, except in the following instance: “When it was found that General Hampton was not at St. Regis,

his place of rendezvous, all ranks were *consternated*." *Letter from an officer in Gen Wilkinson's army, in Dec. 1813.* The only English dictionary, in which I find it, is *Ash's*; and it is there said to be "*not sufficiently authorized.*"

#### CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES.

The officers of government collectively, in a kingdom, city, town, &c. This expression has been adopted by some of our writers from the vocabulary of the French Revolution. "Neither could he perceive danger to liberty except from the *constituted authorities*, and especially from the executive." *Marsh. Life of Washing.* vol. v. p. 354. The English, I think, have used it only in translations from the French.

#### CONSTITUTIONALITY.

"The state of being agreeable to the constitution, or of affecting the constitution." *Webst. Dict.* "The argument upon this question has naturally divided [itself] into two parts, the one of *expediency*, the other of *constitutionality*." *Debates in Congress, on the Judiciary bill in 1802*, p. 76.

This word is not in *Johnson* nor *Mason*; nor have I been able to find it in any other English dictionary. I do not recollect it in any English publications. The adjective *constitutional* is used in England as well as in this country.

#### CONTEMPLATION.

A distinguished foreigner, who resided in England many years, and is well acquainted with the language, upon his arrival in this country, was struck with the frequent recurrence of this word in conversation; as, "I have it *in contemplation* to do such a thing; for, *I intend* to do such a thing." The expression is not uncommon in English publications; though I do not recollect

it in *conversation*. A correspondent remarks, that it is “used both in books and conversation in *England*; but possibly not so frequently as in the United States.” *A.*

*To CONTRIVE.*

Dr. Witherspoon has the following remarks on a singular use of this word: “I wish we could *contrive it* to Philadelphia. The words *to carry, to have it carried*, or some such, are wanting. It is a defective construction, of which there are too many that have already obtained in practice, in spite of all the remonstrances of men of letters.” *Druid*, No. 5.

I doubt whether this strange expression is ever used at the present day. I never heard it myself, nor have I found any person that has heard it from any class of people in this country.

*To CONVENE.*

This is used in some parts of New England in a very strange sense; that is, *to be convenient*, fit, or suitable. *Ex.* This road will *convene* the public; *i. e.* will be convenient for the public. The word, however, is used only by the illiterate.

CONVENIENT TO.

A writer in the Monthly Anthology (for August 1808, p. 438) censures the following use of this word in Marshall's *Life of Washington*, vol. iii. p. 120. “The army was *convenient to* the highlands.” This expression is not often to be found in American publications.

COPPERS.

The common name in New England for British halfpence; which, until the coinage of our *Cents*, constituted the *copper* currency of this country: We used to say a *copper's worth* of any thing, as in England they would say a penny worth. The name is already nearly obsolete.



## CORKS.

The steel points fixed under the shoes of horses, in the winter, to prevent them from falling, on the ice. It is the same thing, that in Johnson's and other dictionaries is called *frost-nails*. From the noun we have formed a verb *to cork*, and we accordingly say, the horse is *corked*, &c. I do not find the term or its derivatives in any of the English dictionaries, except *Ash's*, where the participle *corking* is thus explained—"turning up the heels of a horse's shoes." Mr. *Webster* has both the noun and the verb.

## CORN.

This word, in many parts of the United States, and particularly in *New England*, signifies exclusively *Indian corn*, or *maize*, which has been the principal sort of corn cultivated in those parts of the country. Wheat, rye, and the other sorts of corn are generally called *grain*, and frequently *English grain*. In *England*, *corn* is a *general* term, (as it was here used by our old writers,) and means all sorts of grain that are used for bread. "*Corn*, in Agriculture, a term applied to all sorts of grain fit for food; particularly wheat, rye, &c.—The *farmers*, indeed, rank under the denomination of corn several other grains, as barley, oats, and even pulse, peas, vetches, &c. which, however, they sometimes distinguish by the denomination *smaller corn*." *Rees's Cyclop.* art. CORN. A correspondent says, the term "*Corn* among the English is more peculiarly applied to *wheat*." *A.* The meal of *Indian corn* (which we call *Indian meal*) is in *England* generally called *Indian corn meal*.

CORN-BLADES. "Leaves of *maize*. (*Southern States*.)"  
*Webst. Dict.*

CORN-STALKS. (Used generally in the plural number.)

The farmers of *New England* use this term, and

more frequently the simple term, *stalks*, to denote the upper part of the stalks of *Indian corn* (above the *ear*) which is cut off while green, and then dried to make *fodder* for their cattle.

**Cosset.** “A lamb, &c. brought up by hand.” *Bailey*.

This word is used in *New England*, in this sense, and also to signify, a favourite or darling. In the *Southern States* (as in *England*) they use the word *pet*. The word *cosset*, applied to a lamb, &c. is noticed by *Ray*, (from whom *Grose* copies it,) as a *provincialism* of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*. *Ray's South and East Country words*. It is in all the dictionaries. In *Rees's Cyclopædia* it is simply called a term in *Rural Economy*, but is not noted as *provincial*.

**COUNTERACTION.** A counteracting.

This is sometimes, though rarely, used by American writers in the following manner: “He prevailed over his enemies by the *counteraction* [counteracting] of their designs.” It is not in any of the English dictionaries, and is very rarely used by *English* authors. I have however, met with the following instance of it: “All the eloquence and fire of Demosthenes could not rouse the Athenian people to a timely dread or steady *counteraction* of the formidable plans of Philip.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 51.

**COUNTY.**

In speaking of *counties*, the names of which are compounded of the word *shire*, (for example, *Hampshire*, *Berkshire*, &c.) we say the *county* of *Hampshire*, the *county* of *Berkshire*, &c. In *England* they would say, either *Hampshire* or *Berkshire* simply, without the word *county*; or, the county of *Hunts*, the county of *Berks*, &c. The word *shire* of itself, as every body knows, means *county*; and in one instance, (in *Massachusetts*,) this

latter word is used instead of *shire*, as a part of the name :  
 “ the county of *Duke’s-County*.”

#### CREATURE.

An English traveller makes the following remark on this word : “ *Creature*, pronounced *creatur*, is used in New England, in regard to men, in all the senses of the French *animal*, *bête* and *monstre*.” *Kendal’s Travels*, vol. iii. p. 255. In the *plural* number it is in very common use among farmers as a general term for horses, oxen, &c. *Ex.* The *creatures* will be put into the pasture to day. It is frequently so used in the *old* laws of some of the States. “ The owners or claimers of any such *creatures* [*i. e.* ‘ swine, neat-cattle, horses, or sheep’] impounded as aforesaid, shall pay the fees,” &c. *Province Laws of Massachusetts*, Stat. 10. Wm. 3. A correspondent also observes, “ *He has killed a beef-creatur* (or creature) *to day*, is a New England expression.”

#### CREEK.

In New England this word is used only in its old English sense, that is, “ a part of the *sea* which runs into the land.” In *Pennsylvania* (and perhaps some other States) it means also a *brook*, or small *river*.

**CROCK.** The black of a pot, or of a chimney.

A writer in the *Monthly Anthology*, (vol. vii. p. 263.) in reviewing Mr. Webster’s dictionary, where this word is found, says—“ *Crock* is indeed common enough in this section of the country ; but it is not an *English* word, and our Southern brethren ridicule us for using it.” It is, in fact, only a *provincial* word in England, and is mentioned as such by *Mason*, who cites *Ray’s South and East Country Words* ; and in this latter work both the *noun* and the *verb* are marked as peculiar to *Essex*, in England. *Grose* also has it as a *provincial* word. It is never used here but in conversation. A correspondent says : “ *His*

*face is crooked all over*, is an expression familiar to the common people of England."

**CROW-BAR.** An iron crow, or simply, a *crow*. (Used in New England.)

*Crow-bar* is "a name often *provincially* applied to an iron crow or lever." *Rees's Cyclop.* *Marshall* has it among the "Provincialisms of *West Devonshire*." See *Rural Econ. of West of Engl.* vol. i.

**TO CULTIVATE.** "While these (in the phrase of a New England writer) are *cultivating* the ocean." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 113. This application of the word, must, I think, have been a peculiarity of the writer alluded to: I never knew it to be thus used in America.

**CURIOUS.**

This word (as a friend first remarked to me) is often heard among the common farmers of New England, in the sense of *excellent*, or *peculiarly excellent*; as in these expressions: "These are *curious* apples; this is *curious* cider," &c. A correspondent also informs me, that he once noticed it in the Diary of one of our country clergymen (written nearly a century ago) where this remark was made against one of the days of the month: "*Curious* hay-weather." This use of the word is hardly known in our sea-port towns.

**CUSTOMABLE.** "Subject to duties. (*Law of Massachusetts*.)" *Webst. Dict.*

This word I presume was never *in use*. I never heard it among *lawyers* in Massachusetts; and *mercantile* friends, to whom I have mentioned it, do not recollect hearing it used. The word *dutiable* is sometimes heard in conversation. See *Dutiable*.

**TO DEBARK.**

The *British Critic* notices the use of this word (among others) as one of the faults of style in the *Official Letters*

of *General Washington*. After observing, in general terms, that “in point of style and composition they [the letters] are entitled to no ordinary praise,” and that “they may be received upon the whole as excellent models in their kind,” the reviewers add : “We cannot, however, but take notice in derogation from our general praise for correctness of style, that some few *Gallicisms* occur ; such as *derange* for disarrange ; *grade* for step, *debark* for disembark, &c. which we do the more scrupulously, because it is a vice of the times, to corrupt the language by introducing foreign terms, without regard to the just analogy of formation, and without rational ground of preference for melody, or force, to genuine English words of similar import.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. vi. p. 237 ; for *Sept.* 1795.

These remarks, it will be observed, were made twenty years ago, since which time the verb *debark* has been more in use among the English. It is often to be seen in the dispatches of British officers ; and, perhaps, is considered rather as belonging to the language of military men, than as a word in general use. I have, however, observed it, in one instance, in a *British* publication of high rank : See *Edinb. Rev.* vol. i. p. 41. The verb *derange* also, which is here condemned, is now frequently used in Great Britain. See *Derange*.

**DECEDENT.** “One dead. (Law of N. Jersey and Pennsylvania.)” *Webst. Dict.*

This word is unknown in the *Northern* States even as a technical term.

**DECENT.** Tolerable ; pretty good. *Ex.* He is a *decent* scholar ; a *decent* writer ; he is nothing more than *decent*.

This word has been in common use at some of our colleges, but only in the language of *conversation*. The adverb *decently* (and possibly the adjective also) is some-

times used in a similar manner in some parts of Great Britain : “ The greater part of the pieces it contains may be said to be very *decently* written.” *Edinb. Rev.* vol. i. p. 126.

#### DECLENSION.

We sometimes see this word used in our news-papers, in speaking of a person’s declining to be a candidate for office. *Ex.* In consequence of the *declension* of our candidate, we shall be obliged to vote for a new one.

**To DEED.** “ To give or transfer by deed.” *Webst. Dict.*

We sometimes hear this verb used *colloquially* ; but rarely, except by illiterate people. It is considered as a low word. None of our *writers* would employ it. It need hardly be observed, that it is not in the English dictionaries.

**To DEGENERATE.** *v. active.* To cause any thing to degenerate.

One of our reviews has censured the use of *degenerate*, as an *active* verb, in the writings of a well known American author : “ We would, therefore, take the liberty of recommending to the revision of Dr. *Smith* the following expressions—‘ Idleness *degenerates* every thing ; and mere amusement, where it occupies a large portion of our time, *evaporates* the greatest and most respectable qualities of human nature.’ ” *Monthly Magazine and American Review* (New York 1799) vol. i. p. 362 ; in a review of *Sermons by the Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith*. I have never met with any other instance of this verb, used *actively*, in American publications.

**DEGREE.** Used in this expression : To a degree ; that is, extremely. “ We learn that the situation of the inhabitants was distressing *to a degree*.” *Charleston (So. Carolina) City Gazette*, Aug. 30, 1813.

An observing friend, who has resided in *South Caro-*

*lina*, informs me, that this expression is very common there ; but not, he thinks, among people of education. I do not recollect hearing it in New England. It is not, however, exclusively American, but has been used in Great Britain ; and several years ago was ridiculed there as an innovation. See *Dialogues of the Dead*, by James H. Beattie : *Dial.* iii.

#### DELINQUENCY.

The use of this word in the following passage of *Bancroft's Life of Washington* (p. 207) is condemned by the English reviewers : "The *delinquency* of the United States to prepare for the approaching campaign ;" that is, (say the reviewers,) "*tardiness or unwillingness.*" *British Critic*, for 1810, p. 182. It is not much used here ; I never saw it in any other instance than the above. A correspondent remarks, that "the term might pass between friends in conversation, in England."

DEMORALIZATION. "The destruction of morality." *Webst. Dict.*

This noun (as well as the verb *demoralize*) is sometimes used by American writers. It is also to be found in some *English* authors ; but it is not acknowledged by the critics of Great Britain as a legitimate word. The *Edinburgh Reviewers*, in their remarks on a work of Miss Helen Maria Williams, thus speak of this, and other words : "Throughout all these comments we have the same contempt of *Anglicism*, as in the translation. We have *imperturbability* again, and *demoralization.*" *Edinb. Rev.* vol. iii. p. 216.

To DEMORALIZE. To corrupt, undermine, or destroy moral principles." *Webst. Dict.*

This (like the preceding noun) has been adopted from the French since the revolution. It is used by some *English* writers, but perhaps not so often as by us. It is

not in any of the dictionaries, I believe, except Mr. Webster's.

DEPARTMENTS. See *Heads of Departments*.

DEPARTMENTAL. "Pertaining to a department." *Webst. Dict.*

This adjective has been ranked, by one of our own critics, among our "barbarisms." See *Monthly Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 263. It is not in the English dictionaries.

To DEPRECIATE; v. *neut.* to fall in value.

In *America* this verb (like *appreciate*,) is used as a verb *neuter*. The English, in writing, always use it as a verb *active*. But (a correspondent observes) "an Englishman might be found saying, in *conversation*, 'their paper-money depreciates fast.'"

To DEPUTIZE. To depute.

This word is sometimes heard here in *conversation*, but rarely occurs in *writing*. I have never met with it but once in any of our publications: "They seldom think it necessary to *deputize* more than one person to attend to their interests at the seat of government." *Description of Nantucket, in the Port Folio for January 1811, p. 33.* Mr. Webster has noted it as a *Connecticut* word. It is also used in other parts of New England, but has always been considered as a mere vulgarism. The only English dictionary, in which I have found it, is *Bailey's*; where it is mentioned in a collection of words subjoined to his Preface (second *folio* edition) under the title of "*Words in some Modern Authors, which did not occur till the Dictionary was entirely printed.*" It is, however, omitted in the *octavo* edition (of 1761,) and none of the succeeding lexicographers have thought it worthy of notice.

To DERANGE.

The *British Critic* (as will be seen above in the re-



marks on the verb *to debark*) censures the use of *derange*, in *Washington's Official Letters*, as a *Gallicism*. It had however been used in the preceding volume of that Review: "That Robespierre might fall without *deranging* the general system," &c. *B. Crit.* vol. v. p. 77. And it has since been often used in other Reviews: "*Deranging* the main operations of society." *Edinb. Rev.* vol. i. p. 356; and again at p. 376. It was not noticed by any of the English lexicographers, I believe, before *Walker* and *Mason* inserted it in their works.

#### DEROGATORY.

The use of this adjective at the end of a sentence (instead of *degrading*) has been criticised by Englishmen as an *Americanism*. *Ex.* The government did such an act, which was very *derogatory*: Such conduct is very *derogatory*.

#### DESK. A pulpit.

An English traveller thus notices the use of this word in *Connecticut*: "The pulpit, or, as it is here called, the **DESK**, was filled by three if not four clergymen; a number, which by its form and dimensions, it was able to accommodate." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 4. It is also used in some other States: "They are common to every species of oratory, though of rarer use in the *desk*," &c. *Adams' Lectures on Rhetoric*, vol. i. p. 198.

#### DESTITUTION. Want, deficiency.

This is criticised in an English pamphlet on America, (see the *note* on the verb *To bottom*) as one of our words: *Ex.* "Is it not true that our *destitution* of competent fleets and armies, the state of our finances.....combined to furnish," &c. *Address of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts in answer to the Governor's Speech, June Session, 1813*. This word is in the dictionaries, but is not in use in England at the present day.

**To DEVOLVE.**

American writers sometimes employ this verb in an *active* sense: "On Sir George Yeardly, whom he appointed governor of Virginia, and on his council *he devolved* the whole legislative and executive powers of the colony," &c. *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. i. p. 72. *Amer. edit.* In the London *quarto* edition of that work, the expression is thus altered: On Sir George Yeardly..... *devolved* the whole legislative and executive powers, &c.

This use of *devolve*, though to be found in good English writers a century ago (see Johnson's dictionary) is not common at the present day. It is censured by the reviewers, in a modern English work. See *Brit. Crit.* vol. xxii. p. 363; *Review of Card's Revolutions of Russia*.

**DICTATION.** A dictating. *Ex.* "Was not this an arbitrary *dictation* to a national vessel?"

This word is in *Johnson*, upon the authority of former *Dictionaries*; but, as Ash says, it is "not much used" in England; and it can hardly be said to be in common use in this country.

**DIME.** "A silver coin of the United States, of ten cents." *Webst. Dict.*

**DISCONNEXION.**

This word is not in *Johnson*; and it has been censured by an American writer, as an unauthorized word. See *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iv. p. 281. It is, however, sometimes used by English authors. *Mason* has it in his *Supplement*, upon the authority of *Burke*; as he has also the participle *disconnected*. A correspondent says—"Disconnected has been more in use in England than *disconnexion*. The latter, however, is at least a convenient word."

**DISDAIN.** Contempt.

Dr. Witherspoon gives the following example: "I

should have let your performance sink into a silent *disdain*." He then observes: "A performance may fall into contempt, or sink into oblivion, or be treated with disdain; but to make it sink into *silent disdain*, is a very crude expression indeed." No American author at the present day would use the word *disdain* in this extraordinary manner.

**To DISORGANIZE ; DISORGANIZER, &c.** See *To Organize*.

**DOCITY**, (pronounced *dóssity*.)

A low word, used in some parts of the United States, to signify *quick comprehension*. It is used only in conversation, and generally with a negative, thus: He has no *docity*. It is a *provincial* word in England. See *Grose's Prov. Gloss.* I do not find it in any of the dictionaries, except *Bailey's* (fol. edit. 1736) and *Ash's*; in which last it is said to be "an incorrect spelling" of *docility*. In this country it is a *local* word, and is employed only by the same class of speakers, that would use the low word *gumption*, which is also *provincial* in England. See *Gumption*.

**DOMESTICS.**

It has been remarked by Englishmen, that the people of New England call their servants *domestics*. The correlative *master* is also very seldom used in the *Northern States*. *Domestic* is "a term of somewhat more extent than that of *servant*." See *Rees's Cyclop.*

**DOMINANT.**

"The *dominant* party, the *dominant* faction," &c. are common expressions with our political writers. *Johnson* (as well as other lexicographers) has the word in his dictionary, but he cites no authority for it. It has been used by some writers in England; and has been thus censured by the Reviewers: "When we have objected to *dominant*, *resistless* for *unresisting*, and *arrondissement*,

we have exhausted our chief rage as verbal critics."

*British Critic*, vol. i. p. 53 : *Review of Alfred's Letters*.

**To Doom.** To tax at discretion. *New England*.

When a person neglects to make a return of his taxable property to the assessors of a town, those officers *doom* him ; that is, judge upon, and fix his tax according to their discretion. "The estates of all marchants, shopkeepers, and factors shall be assessed by the rule of common estimation, according to the will and *doom* of the assessors." *Massachusetts Colony Laws*, p. 14. edit. 1660.

**DOOMAGE.** "A fine or penalty. *Law of New Hampshire*." *Webst. Dict.*

**To DOXOLOGIZE.**

A friend has pointed out to me an instance of the use of this verb (which was new to me) in one of our periodical works : "No instance is to be found in which primitive Christians *doxologized* the Spirit of God as a Person." *Christian Disciple*, vol. ii. p. 295. I never met with the word in any other American work ; and I have no recollection of seeing it in any English publication. It may, possibly, be a part of the professional language of divines. The only English dictionaries in which I have found it are *Ash's*, and the *folio* edition (of the year 1736) of *Bailey's*. *Ash* gives it on the authority of "Scott." In the *octavo* edition of *Bailey's* (of 1761) it is omitted : as it is also in *Johnson's*. Mr. *Webster* has not inserted it in his work.

**DROUTH.** Drought.

People of education in America have always avoided using the word *drouth*, considering it as a mere vulgar corruption of *drought*. Mr. *Webster*, however, in the learned preface to his *Compendious Dictionary*, following the etymology of the word, as given by *Horne Tooke*, de-

sends *drouth* as the genuine word, and condemns *drought* as the corruption :

“ *Drought* and *height* (says he) are corruptions of *drugothe* and *heath* ; which the Saxons formed from *dryg* and *heh* or *heah*, *dry* and *high*, by adding the termination *th* as in *length* from *leng* ; *strength* from *streng*, and as we form *truth* from *true*, *width* from *wide*, *warmth* from *warm*. The Saxon termination *th* is universally preserved in the popular pronunciation of this country ; and so far is it from being an error or corruption, that it is the very essence of the nouns *drouth* and *highth*. Men therefore who use this pronunciation, though chargeable with ‘ a zeal for analogy,’ as Johnson observes of Milton, and though they may not imitate Garrick as Walker does, will still have the honor to be correct, and to preserve the purity of the original orthography. They will further have the honor of conforming to what is in fact the national pronunciation, and has been, from the earliest records of our language. *Height* is an innovation comparatively modern ; and *drought* is the Belgic dialect of the Teutonic ; but neither of these words existed in the Saxon, the parent of our language.”\*

In the same manner, as also appears from Tooke’s work, the English as well as ourselves have departed from “ the original orthography” of several other words of the same form. After showing the etymology of *height* and some other nouns, (which he observes are respectively the third persons singular of the indicatives of various Saxon verbs) Mr. Tooke says : “ It has been remarked indeed, that Milton always wrote *heighth*, as our ancient authors also did ; but the word is now commonly written *height*.” And (he adds) that though this seems to oppose his etymology, yet the same thing has happened to many

\* Compendious Dictionary, Preface, p. vii.

other words. " So it has happened (says he) to—**MIGHT** ; which the Anglo-Saxons wrote *mægeth*, or *mægthe*, i. e. what one *mægeth* ; quantum potest aut valet aliquis. *Might* is the third person singular of the indicative of *magau* posse, valere.....**SIGHT** ; which the Anglo Saxons wrote *sith* and *sithe*, i. e. that faculty which *seeth*. The third person singular of the indicative of *seon*, videre. .... **WEIGHT** ; Ang. Sax. *wægeth*. The third person singular of the indicative of *wægan*, to weigh. The *weight* of any thing, that is, that which it *weigheth*."\* But although this was the " original orthography" of all these words, yet (as he observes of the ancient word *droughth*) " Custom has transposed the 'TH'."

I shall only add, that the noun *drowth* and its adjective *drowthy*, and, in addition to these, the verb *drow*, (which last, I believe, is unknown in America) are still provincial in England : " *Drow* ; to dry. The hay don't *drowy* at all. *Drowth* ; dryness, thirst. *Drowthy* ; dry, thirsty." *Vocabulary of the Somerset Dialect, in the London Monthly Magazine*, vol. xxxviii. p. 331 ; for Nov. 1811.

**DEUTIALE.** " Subject to duties or impost." *Webst. Dict.*

The use of this word in *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. ii. p. 73, has been censured by a writer in one of our periodical works. See *Monthly Anthology*, vol. v. p. 438. It is little used even in conversation.

**EAGLE.** A gold coin of the United States, of the value of ten dollars.

**EDUCATIONAL.**

A friend has given me the following instance of the use of this word ; which was new to me : " It is believed that there is not an individual of the college who

\* Diversions of Purley, part ii. ch. 5.

would, if questioned, complain that he has, in any instance, felt himself pressed with opinions which interfered with his *educational* creed." *Report to the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, relative to a revival of religion among the Students, &c. by Dr. Ashbel Green, President of the College; as published in the Panoplist, for June, 1815, p. 287.*

#### EITHER.

Dr. Witherspoon has the following remarks on the use of this word: "The United States or *either* of them. This is so far from being a mark of ignorance, that it is used by many of the most able and accurate speakers and writers, yet it is not English. The United States are thirteen in number, but in English *either* does not signify one of many, but *one or the other of two*. I imagine *either* has become an adjective pronoun, by being a sort of abbreviation of a sentence, where it is used adverbially, *either the one or the other*. It is the same with *ενατερος* in Greek, and *alteruter* in Latin." *Druid*, No. 5. But Johnson says, "it is used *sometimes* of more than two; any one of a certain number; any of an indeterminate number."

**To ENERGIZE.** To impart energy. *Ex.* instead of aiding and *energizing* the police of the college," &c. *The British Spy*, published in Virginia.

This word is noted as "unauthorised," by a writer in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. i. p. 635. I never saw it in any other American work.

#### EPISCOPALIANS.

This term is thus noticed by an English traveller: "One church.....belongs to the members of the Church of England, here called *Episcopalians*." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 88.

## EQUALLY AS.

Dr. Witherspoon puts this among his *Americanisms*. He observes—"Equally as well, and equally as good. This is frequent in conversation and public speaking. It is also to be found in some publications, of which it is needless to name the authors; but it is just as good English to say, the *most highest* mountain in America." *Druid*, No. 6.

## ESQUIRE.

In America this is often joined with the title of *Honourable*. *Ex.* The *Honourable A. B. Esquire*. It is never thus used in England. Since the former edition of this Vocabulary was published I have seen this peculiarity noticed (by being put in *Italics*) in a well known English Review: "Not even M. Chateaubriand could have displayed a more ardent enthusiasm on this occasion than the *honourable Esquire* before us." *Monthly Review*, vol. lxxv. p. 107; *Review of an Oration by the Honourable Gouver. Morris Esquire*. An English friend has favoured me with the following remarks on this subject: "*Honourable* in England is commonly applied to the son of a peer, of the rank of a baron, &c. It is also applied to a member of the House of Commons, *in debate*; but members of that house have no such title out of parliament, and much less after they have ceased to be members of parliament. In *Massachusetts* they say in their Proclamations, 'By his *Excellency* Caleb Strong *Esquire*;' which must seem a perfect solecism among the English; where Esquire (armiger) literally means only the military attendant of a Knight (eques.\*)" Another English friend has informed me that in the Britist West Indies they use *Esquire* with *Honourable*, as we do.



## EULOGIUM.

A writer in the *Monthly Anthology* (vol. i. p. 609) observes that “*eulogium* is not an English word.” But this writer is certainly mistaken. It is in common use with all the English and Scottish reviewers; and occurs much oftener, I think, that the Anglicised term *eulogy*. *Eulogium*, however, is not in *Johnson’s* dictionary, nor in *Mason’s Supplement*, nor do I find it in any of the English dictionaries except *Walker’s*; and it was not inserted in the *early* editions of that work. It is inserted in the fourth London edition (1806) with this short remark—“The same as *eulogy*.”

To EVENTUATE. “To issue, come to an end.” *Webst. Dict.*

A correspondent has reminded me of this word, which is much used by some of our writers. It is not in the dictionaries; and, I think, is rarely, if ever, used by English authors.

## EVIDENTIAL.

We sometimes hear this word from our pulpits; but I do not recollect seeing it in any of our publications. It is not in the dictionaries; and I think it is not in common use with English writers. A friend, however, has given me the following instance of it in a celebrated English work: “Equivalent to that belief itself and *evidential* of it.” *Christian Observer*, vol. xiii. p. 765.

To EVOKE. *Ex.* Every phantom of jealousy and fear is evoked. *Letter of the Hon. J. Q. Adams to the Hon. H. G. Otis*, p. 30.

The Editor of the *New York Evening Post*, in “Remarks and Criticisms” on this letter, says—“We doubt whether the verb *to evoke* be English; the substantive *evocation* is an English word.” Another writer (at *Boston*) seems to intimate that *e-voked* here may be a mistake of the printer for *in-voked*. The verb *evoke* is

not in *Johnson's* dictionary : But *Entick* and some others have it : and (as a friend informs me) it is used in the *Castle of Indolence*, canto 47, and by *Warburton*, in one of his *Letters*.

EXCHANGEABILITY. See *Exchangeable*.

EXCHANGEABLE.

This, and the word *Exchangeability* are noticed, as unauthorised words, by a writer in the *Monthly Anthology* (vol. i. p. 635) who observes, that they are used in *Washington's* [*Official*] *Letters*, vol. ii. pp. 80, 94, 257. I do not find them taken notice of by any lexicographer, except Mr. Webster. A correspondent remarks, that "*Exchangeability* is never used in England; and that *Exchangeable* can only be used in the most familiar conversation." I have lately observed the latter word used in an *English Review* : "An attempt is made to exact labour into an universal and immutable standard of the *exchangeable* value of all commodities." *Brit. Crit.* vol. xlv. p. 485. "By setting up labour as the standard of *exchangeable* value," &c. *ibid*.

EXECUTIVE.

This word is now in general use here, as a noun, signifying the *Executive Power*, or, the *President* of the United States, in whom that power is vested.

A writer in the *Monthly Anthology* (for 1808, p. 437) seems to think that "we have succeeded in incorporating it into the language, as it is in general use in England." It is certainly *sometimes* used in England; but very rarely, except where the writer or speaker is alluding to the Executive of the United States, and seems to employ it as an *American name*. In the preface to the *London* edition of *Ramsay's History of the American Revolution* (which, however, was published twenty years ago) it is classed among those *American words*, which the *English*

have listened to without as yet adopting." An English friend, however, after remarking, that "an adjective sometimes assumes a substantive form, as, *the military, the interior,*" &c. adds—"Some have thus used the expression '*the legislative;*' but it seems not to have established itself every where in the United States, and much less in England. *The Executive* has been used in a substantive form by some even in England; but in 1792 M. Necker, in his work *Du Pouvoir Executif dans les Grands Etats*, universally kept the terms *executif* and *legislatif* to their adjective form." The Constitution of the United States says, *the Executive Power*, and never simply, *the Executive*.

**TO EXPECT.** To suppose, think.

"In most parts of the world people *expect* things that are to come. But in *Pennsylvania*, more particularly in the metropolis, we *expect* things that are past. One man tells another, he *expects* he has had a very pleasant ride, &c....I have indeed heard a wise man of Gotham say, he *expected* Alexander the Macedonian was the greatest conqueror of antiquity." *Port Folio*, 1809, p. 535. This use of the verb *expect* has now extended to other parts of the United States. A friend informs me that it is common in *Virginia* and other *Southern States*, and it is now considerably used in the *Northern States*; but I have been informed by observing persons, that not more than thirty years ago, the people of New England used to remark upon it as a peculiarity of the *Southern States*. It is *provincial* in England: "Expect, suppose. *North.*" *Grose's Prov. Gloss.*

**FACTORY.**

This is a new word in America, and is doubtless an abbreviation of *manufactory*; the latter word, indeed, is not in *Johnson's* and some other English dictionaries,

but it is in Mason's Supplement, Walker's Dictionary, and Rees's Cyclopædia, and is well known to be in common use in England. The word *Factory* (according to *Rees*) is applied "in some of the manufacturing counties [in England] to the places where *particular processes* of the manufacture are carried on;" but its common English meaning is well known to be (as Johnson gives it) "a house or district inhabited by traders in a distant country," and "the traders embodied in one place."

*To FALL.* To fell, to cut down.

A reviewer in the *Monthly Anthology* (vol. v. p. 438) condemns this as an "*American barbarism*" in the following passage of *Marshall's Life of Washington*: "For the purpose of cooperating with the continental troops in breaking up the bridges, *falling* trees in the roads," &c. vol. iii. p. 456. Dr. *Belknap*, in his *History of New Hampshire*, and all other American writers whose works I have consulted, use *to fell*; and *to fall* has always been considered as a *vulgarism* in *New England*. The verb *to fall*, in this sense, is to be found, indeed, in some of the English dictionaries, but most of them do not admit it. It is in the *English* part of *Ainsworth*, but in the *Latin* part, under both the words referred to, he says *to fell* trees. It is also in Ash, Sheridan, and Walker; the last of whom has evidently copied Sheridan. But it is not in Johnson, Mason, Bailey, Barclay, Entick, and various others. *To fell* is constantly used by *Evelyn*, throughout the chapter of *falling* trees, in his *Sylva*, (which was first printed in 1664) and the same term is also used by his editor, the late Dr. Hunter, in his notes on that work. It is also constantly used in *Rees's Cyclopædia*: See articles, **FELLING** of *Timber*, **ASH Tree**, &c. Some of the English statutes, however, have the verb *to fall*. By the 13 Geo. 3. c. 8 it is enacted, that there

shall be reserved to the owners of ground over which highways are made, "all timber and wood growing upon such ground to be *fallen* and taken by such owner or owners within one month after such order shall have been made, or in default thereof *to be fallen* by the said surveyor, &c.

**FALL.** Autumn.

A friend has pointed out to me the following remark on this word: "In North America the season in which this [the fall of the leaf] takes place, derives its name from that circumstance, and instead of *autumn* is universally called the *fall*." *Rees's Cyclopaedia*, art. **DECIDUOUS Leaves**; written by Dr. J. E. Smith, President of the *Linnæan Society*.

**To FAULT.** "To charge with a fault; to accuse." *Johnson*. I have heard this verb used in a few instances by old people; but it is nearly obsolete here; and *Ash* says it is "not much used" in England.

**FEDERALIST.** "A friend to the Constitution of the United States." *Webst. Dict.*

Mr. Webster also has *Federal*, as a *noun* of the same meaning; but this is never heard, except in the mouths of the most illiterate people; and it has always been considered as a corruption of *Federalist*.

**FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.**

"This (says Dr. Witherspoon) is a word of frequent use in America. It has been heard in public orations from men of the first character, and may be daily seen in news-paper publications. It is an evident tautology, for the last word expresses fully the meaning of both. If you open any dictionary, you will find the word *countryman* signifies one born in the same country. You may say, fellow-citizens, fellow-soldiers, fellow-subjects, fellow-christians, but not fellow-countrymen." *Druid*, No. 5.

To these remarks I will only add, that *Swift* begins the *Drapier's Letters* thus—"Brethren, Friends, *Countrymen*, and *Fellow-Subjects*;" and ends them in the same manner—"I am, my dear *countrymen*, your loving *fellow-subject*, *fellow-sufferer*," &c. A friend, however, has pointed out to me an instance of the use of *fellow-countrymen* in a late work of a well known English writer. See *Southey's Life of Nelson*, vol. ii. p. 237. *Am. ed.*

FIDUCIAL. "Confident; undoubting." *Johnson*.

I have, in one or two instances, heard this word used by our *divines*; as it formerly was by the English. I think it is never used by English writers of the present day.

#### FIRSTLY.

This adverb is frequently used by American writers. None of the dictionaries have it; and, I had supposed, that it had never been used by *English* writers. An English friend, however, says—"Some *English* hyper-critics (if we may be allowed the term) have said *firstly*; but the number of them has been small. The *framers* of our language, however, might reasonably have said *firstly*." The word *first* seems always to have been considered by English writers both as an *adverb* and an *adjective*: "This action [in an epic poem] should have three qualifications in it; *first*, it should be a great action; *secondly*, it should be an entire action; and *thirdly*, it should be a great action." *Spectator*, No. 267; *et passim*. "The other purposes are to show, *first*, that the time of the remarks was the favourable time.... *secondly*, that on the enemy's side," &c. *Burke's Fourth Letter on the Regicide Peace*. The following is the only instance I have seen of *firstly* in an English work: "They will in some measure be enabled to determine, *firstly*, &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. xlv. p. 577; for Dec. 1814.

**FISK.** The Treasury, or Exchequer.

This word has been proposed by the learned translator of *Bynkershoek's Quæst. Jur. Pub.* as an addition to our language. He uses it in the text of his author, and then has this note: "As we make use of the words *fiscal, confiscate, confiscation*, why should we not adopt in America the word *fisk*, from the Latin *fiscus*, which is the root of all these derivatives." *Duponceau's Bynkershoek*, p. 51. No other writer in this country, I believe, has made use of the term. The English writers commonly render the word *Fiscus* by *Treasury*: "As the Romans say, such goods as are forfeited to the Emperor's *Treasury* for any offence are *bona confiscata*, so we say of those that are forfeited to our King's *Exchequer*." *Jacob's Law Dictionary*, by Tomlins. *Burke* employs the word *Fisc*, as a French term: "When they had resolved to appropriate to the *Fisc*, a certain portion of the landed property of their conquered country," &c. *Reflections*; vol. iii. of his *Works*, p. 252, *Boston edit.*

**FLOOR.** Used in *Congress*, in this expression—*To get the floor*; that is, to obtain an opportunity of taking a part in a debate. The English say, *to be in possession of the House*: "Lord J. rose at the same time with the Hon. Baronet, but the Speaker decided that the Hon. Baronet *was in possession* of the House, if he claimed his right." *Debates in Parliament*, Jan, 7, 1814; as reported in the *news-papers*.

**FOLKS.**

This old word is much used in *New England* instead of *people* or *persons*. 1. For the persons in one's family; as, in this common phrase: how do your *folks* do; that is, your family. 2. For people in general; as in expressions of this kind: What do *folks* think of it," &c. *Dr. Johnson* observes, that "it is now used only in fa-

miliar or burlesque language." In New England, it is less used now than formerly.

**FORTED IN.** *Fr.* "A few inhabitants *forted in* on the *Potomac*. Used in *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. ii p. 28; and animadverted upon by a writer in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. v. p. 438.

**TO FOURFOLD.** "To assess in a fourfold ratio. *Webst. Dict.*

I believe this is peculiar to the State of *Connecticut*.

**FREDONIA, FREDONIAN, FREDE, FREDISH, &c. &c.**

These extraordinary words, which have been deservedly ridiculed here as well as in England, were proposed sometime ago, and countenanced by two or three individuals, as names for the territory and people of the *United States*. The general term *American* is now commonly understood (at least in all places where the English language is spoken,) to mean an inhabitant of the *United States*; and is so employed, except where unusual precision of language is required. *English* writers in speaking of us always say, the *Americans*, the *American* government, the *American* ambassador, &c. "The *French*, indeed, (as a correspondent observes) extend the appellation *Americans* (*Americains*) to the inhabitants of the *West Indies*." Their writers, accordingly, sometimes distinguish us by the name of *Anglo-Americans*. The words *Fredonia*, &c. are never now used in the *United States*, except by way of ridicule.

**FRESHET.**

This word is peculiar to New England at the present day, and means, (as Dr. Belknap observes, in his *History of New Hampshire*, vol. iii. pref.) "a river swollen by rain or melted snow in the interior country, rising above its usual level, spreading over the adjacent low lands, and rushing with an accelerated current to the



sea. In this sense, (Dr. B. adds) it is understood in New England; and, as it is a part of the language of the age and country in which I write, it is frequently used in this volume." The word, it seems, had been noticed (in another work of Dr. Belknap's) by the Monthly Reviewers, who made this remark upon it—"We are not acquainted with this word."\* In the next number of the Review, Dr. Belknap informs us, "a correspondent kindly attempted to correct what he imagined to be 'an error of the press,' by substituting the word *fresh* in its place; meaning a tide or flowing of fresh in distinction from salt water. But the reviewers were not satisfied that there was any error of the press; and in fact there was not; the word *freshet* is a term familiar to the people of New England, as it was to their forefathers, who brought it from England, where it was equally familiar *in the last century*." Dr. Belknap then cites two authorities for the word; the first is from Milton's *Paradise Regained*, Book II. line 345, which is also given by *Johnson*:

"—all fish from sea or shore,  
*Freshet* or purling brook, of shell or fin."

Upon which Dr. Belknap remarks, "It seems this author, by a *freshet*, meant a *spreading collection* of fresh water, distinguished from a brook." The commentators on Milton seem to have understood it to mean a *stream*. In Todd's edition of Milton's works there is the following note on the above lines: "*Freshet*, a *stream* of fresh water. So Browne in his *Brit. Pastorals* 1616. B. II. s. iii. of *fish*,

Who now love the *freshet*, and then love the sea."

It is possible, indeed, that Milton employed the term in the sense in which we do. It will be observed, that the

\* 'Month. Rev. for Feb. 1787, p. 139.'

whole passage consists of *antitheses*; and *freshet* may perhaps have been used, not in opposition to a *brook* simply, but to a “*purling brook*.” The other authority cited by Dr. B. is the *Description of New England*, written and published in England, in 1658, by Ferdinando Gorges, who uses the word, as Dr. B. justly observes, precisely in the sense in which it is now understood in New England: “P. 29—Between Salem and Charlestown is situated the town of Lynn, near to a river, whose strong *freshet* at the end of winter filleth all her banks, and with a violent torrent vents itself into the sea.”

But if *Milton* did use this word in *poetry*, and Gorges in *prose*, almost two centuries ago, does it follow that it is *now* a part of the English language? If this rule should be adopted, it would authorize us to use many words, which would be as new to *Americans* of the present day, as *freshet* was to the English Reviewers. The English would doubtless use the term *floods* or *freshes*, as is done in the following example, by an English traveller in New England: “This bridge, like the others having been carried away by the *floods* or *freshes*, here called *freshets*,” &c. *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 291. The *Encyclopædia Britannica* also has the term **FRESHES**; but says it is “a local term, signifying annual inundations, from the rivers being swollen by the melted snows and other fresh waters from the uplands, as is the Nile, &c. from periodical or tropical rains.” One of *Johnson's* definitions of *Flood* is, “the swelling of a river by rain or inland flood; and *Rees's Cyclopædia* says, “*Fresh* denotes the rise of water in a river, or a small flood.” But *fresh* is *provincial* in England according to *Grose*, who defines it thus: “*Fresh*, a flood or overflowing of a river. This heavy rain will bring down the *freshes*. North.” The people of the Southern States use the word *fresh*.

**FRONDESCE.** To put forth leaves. "His powers began now to *frondesce* and blossom." *Eulogy on Dr. Rush by William Staughton, D. D.*

This remarkable word is peculiar to the writer here quoted.

**FROUGH and FROUGHY.**

The latter of these words is in very common use in many parts of *New England*; but I do not find it in the English glossaries. It is doubtless a corruption of *Frough*, which is sometimes used here, and which is *provincial* in Great Britain: "*Frough*; loose, spongy: *Frough* wood; brittle." *Ray's North Country Words*. See *Brash*.

**GAWKY.**

This is sometimes used (in *conversation*) by the people of New England, in the same manner as in the *North of England*, where it is *provincial*: "*Gawky*; awkward, generally used to signify a tall, awkward person. North." *Grose's Prov. Gloss.*

**To GIRDLE.** "The method is that of *girdling* the trees; which is done by making a circular incision through the bark, and leaving them to die standing." *Belknap's Hist. of New Hampshire*, vol. iii. p. 151.

This is animadverted upon, as an unauthorized word, by a writer in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. i. p. 635; and it is also noticed as an Americanism in *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 235. Mr. Webster has admitted it into his dictionary; but apprises his readers, that it is peculiar to *America*.

**GLUT.** A large wooden wedge. *New England*.

This is an English *provincialism*. See *Marshall's Rural Economy of the Midland Counties*, and *Rees's Cyclopaedia*.

## GONDOLA.

This word is thus noticed and explained by an English traveller: "Vessels of the burden above described are floated down to the sea by means of flat boats or lighters, here [in Portsmouth, New Hampshire] called *Gondolas*, and elsewhere *Scows*. *Kendal's Travels*, vol. iii. p. 31. The term *Gondola* is also used in other parts of New England. See *Scow*.

## To Go BY.

A New England friend, who has travelled in the Southern States, has favoured me with the following remarks on this expression: "I heard this used in North Carolina. Mr. B. asked me to stop and dine with him *when I was passing his house*, by saying, 'Will you *go by* and dine with me.' When I mentioned this singular expression to some gentlemen afterwards, I was told it was often used. Its origin is very natural. When a gentleman is about riding a great distance through that country, where there are few great roads, and the houses or plantations are often two or three miles from them, a friend, living near his route, asks him to *go by* his plantation, and dine or lodge with him. But in a town, or when one is passing before the door, the expression is peculiar."

## GOUGING.

The following account of this word is given by an English traveller, upon the authority of an American: "The General\* informed me, that the mode of fighting in Virginia and the other Southern States, is really of that description, mentioned by preceding travellers, the truth of which many persons have doubted, and some even contradicted. *Gouging*, kicking, and biting are allowed in

\* General Bradley, a Senator in Congress for the State of Vermont.

most of their battles....*Gouging* is performed by twisting the forefinger in a lock of hair, near the temple, and turning the eye out of the socket with the thumb nail, which is suffered to grow long for that purpose." *Lambert's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 300. "A diabolical practice (says an English Review) which has never disgraced Europe, and for which no other people have even a name." *Quart. Rev.* vol. ii. p. 333. The practice itself and the name are both unknown in *New England*; and from the following remarks of a well known American author it will appear, that the practice is much less general in the *Southern States* than it has been: "We are told (says Dr. Morse) that a strange and very barbarous practice prevails among the *lower class* of people in the *back parts* of Virginia, North and South Carolinas, and Georgia; it is called *Gouging*....We have lately been told, that in a particular county, where at the quarterly court twenty years ago, a day seldom passed without ten or fifteen boxing matches, it is now a rare thing to hear of a fight." *Morse's Amer. Univer. Geography*, vol. i. p. 676; edit. 1805.

#### GOVERNMENTAL.

A reviewer in the *Monthly Anthology* (vol. vii. p. 263) ranks this among the "*barbarisms* in common use" in America. It is not in any of the dictionaries; and I did not suppose it had ever been used by any English author. But I find it has been, by Mr. *Belsham* in his *Memoirs of George the Third*. It is however (with the words *liberticidal*, *royalism*, and some others) condemned by the Edinburgh Reviewers, who observe, that these words "are slight innovations upon the English language, which we cannot give up to the ravages of this thirsty reformer, any more than the English Constitution." *Ed. Rev.* vol. ii. p. 184.

GRADE. Gradation, degree, rank, order. "To talents of the

highest *grade* he [Hamilton] united a patient industry not always the companion of genius." *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. v. p. 213. "The high *rank* he had held in the American army would obviate those difficulties in filling the inferior *grades* with men of experience." p. 309.

This word has been often criticised by English writers, in their remarks on American publications. See remarks of the British Critic, under the word *Debar*; and the note on the verb *To Bottom*. The *Annual Review* also thus notices it in the review of *Marshall's Life of Washington*: "At page 367 [of vol. v.] and in many other places *grade* is used for *degree*." *Ann. Rev.* vol. vii. p. 211.

**To GRADUATE.** To take a degree at a university.

This verb was, till lately, always used by us as a verb *neuter* or *intransitive*: *Ex.* "He *graduated* at the University of Cambridge;" but many persons now say, "he *was graduated*." The former mode of using it is common with the English. In the *London Monthly Magazine* (for Oct. 1808. p. 224) a writer, speaking of Mandeville, says—"He *graduated* at Leyden in 1691;" and in the same work (for Feb. 1809) it is again used. In *Rees's Cycloptedia*, *art.* GLANVILL, it is also said, "he took his first degree in the year 1655, and removing to Lincoln college he *graduated* master of arts in 1658." In the same work, *art.* MAGNOL (written by Dr. J. E. Smith, President of the Linnæan Society,) it is again used—"wherever *Magnol graduated*." &c. The *English Reviewers* also use it—"We think dissenters, merely as such, should not be deprived of the privilege of studying and *graduating* at the English universities," &c. *Eccl. Rev.* Apr. 1811, p. 295. *Johnson* has it as a verb *active* only. But an English friend observes, that "the *active* sense of this word is rare in England." I have met with one instance in an English

publication where it is used in a dialogue, in the following manner : “You, methinks, *are graduated.*” See a review in the *British Critic*, vol. xxxiv. p. 538.

**GRAIN.** See *Corn*.

**GRAND.** Much used in *conversation*, for very good, excellent, fine, &c. *Ex.* This is *grand* news ; he is a *grand* fellow ; this is a *grand* day. *New England*.

**GUBERNATORIAL.** “Relating to a governor.” *Webst. Dict.* *Ex.* At the late *gubernatorial* election ; that is, at the late election of governor.

**To GUESS.** To imagine, suppose, believe, think, fancy. *New England*.

This is one of the most common words in use among the people of *New England* ; and from its frequent recurrence has been the subject of much ridicule, not only among the English, but among the people of the *Southern States*. A late *English* traveller thus amuses himself with this word, as used in our *country-towns* : “Instead of imagining, supposing, or believing, as we do, they always *guess* at every thing. ‘I *guess* as how, Jonathan, it’s not so *could* as *yeasterday*. Why I *guess*, Nathan, that the wind has changed.’” *Lambert’s Travels*, vol. ii. p. 506.

The greatest abuse of this word is *guessing* about things well known. The word itself, as every body knows, is an old English word ; and, in the sense in which Johnson defines it (that is, “to conjecture, to judge without any certain principles of judgment,”) is still in common use among the English, as it has long been, both in conversation and in writing. “Whether Mr. P. means &c. we are at a loss to *guess*.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 17. “Whence so marked and decided a contradiction in the results of observations made upon so simple a matter, as the time in which fever makes its attack, could

happen, we are unable to guess." *Brit. Crit.* vol. v. p. 21. "We should guess this tract, from its external appearance, to be the produce of a private press." *Brit. Crit.* vol. xi. p. 694. An intelligent friend informs me, that he has heard it used in *England*, (by the people of *Kent*) just as it is in this country. It is also used in *Derbyshire*: "Guess, to suppose. I guess so. *Derb.*" *Pegge's Supplement to Grose's Provincial Glossary.* London, 1814.

#### GUMPTION.

A low word, which is sometimes heard in conversation, and signifies *understanding*, or *capacity*, as it does in some parts of *England*; where it is *provincial*. *Grose*, under the word *Gawm*, has this explanation: "Gawm: to understand. I dunna gawm ye; I don't understand you. Hence gawmition, or gumption, understanding. *North.*" *Prov. Gloss.* See *Docity*.

#### GUNNING. The diversion of shooting. *New England*.

"They [the Americans] were, however, mostly marksmen, having been accustomed to *gunning* from their youth." *Hist. of New England by Hannah Adams*, p. 302, 8vo. edit.

This word is often noticed by Englishmen, as an *Americanism*; and I have no recollection of having heard it in *England*. *Ash*, however, has it in his dictionary, as follows: "*Gunning* (*s. a colloquial word from gun.*) The diversion of shooting; the act of going out with a gun in order to kill game." I believe no other English lexicographer has noticed it. It should be observed, that though the word often occurs in the language of *conversation*, it is rarely used in *writing*, even by Americans.

#### HACK. An abbreviation of *hackney-coach*.

In *England* *hack* signifies "a horse much used or let out for hire." *Mason's Supplement.* A writer in one of our periodical works observes, that the English, "in-



stead of our abbreviation, go call me a hack, say, go call me a coach" [or, call me a hackney-coach.] *Monthly Anthology*, vol. v. p. 660.

#### HANDSOME.

An obliging correspondent observes, that "this word is here applied to almost every thing;" and then adds (though in rather too strong terms,) that, "in England it is used only in reference to the human countenance." It is thus mentioned as an *Americanism* in the *Quarterly Review*: "The country thus far had presented few striking features, but was generally what the Americans call *handsome*." vol. xii. p. 335; *review of Lewis and Clarke's Travels*. The reviewers again notice it (p. 344,) by putting it in Italics in the following quotation from Lewis and Clarke's work: "The surface seems higher there than the earth on the sides of the fountain, which is a *handsome* turf of green grass."

#### HAPPIFYING. Making happy.

This strange word is sometimes heard from our pulpits; and a clerical friend informs me, that he has met with it in some of our printed sermons. I had supposed it to be a word of very recent date; but I find it was noticed many years ago by Dr. Witherspoon, who merely mentions it in a short list of "terms and phrases to be noted for remarks." *Lectures on Eloquence*; lect. 3.

**TO HAVE.** Used, instead of the auxiliary *to be*, with some of the intransitive verbs. See the remarks on the verb *Arrive*.

#### HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS. (*In the plural number only.*)

A general term, used in speaking of the *Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, &c.* collectively. "The temporary *Heads of Departments* were required to prepare and lay before the first magistrate such statements," &c. *Marshall's Life of Washington*, vol. v. p. 176.

**HEAT or HET** (*pret. and part. of to heat.*)

This is often heard in conversation ; but (as Mr. Webster observes) “the practice is not respectable.”\* *Mason*, in his *Supplement to Johnson*, has *heat* as a participle, “used by old poets for *heated*.” *Ash* also has it (written *het*) on the authority of *Chaucer* ; and observes, that it is obsolete. *Horne Tooke*, after observing that *hot*, as a participle, is sufficiently common, adds—“*heat* is rarely so used. Ben Johnson, however, so uses it in *Sejanus*, act 3.

‘ And fury ever boils more high and strong  
 ‘ *Heat* with ambition, than revenge of wrong.’

*Diversions of Purley*, part ii.

HEFT, *n.* and *To HEFT*, *v.*

The noun **HEFT** is in *Bailey’s* and *Entick’s* dictionaries, in the sense in which it is often used in this country ; that is, “the weight of any thing.” It is *provincial* in England : “Heft, weight—What *heft* be ’um.” *Dialect of South Wiltshire* : in *Monthly Magazine*, vol. xxxviii. p. 114. *Grose* also has the noun **HEFT** in his Glossary thus : “*Heft* ; heaviness or weight ; as a *heft* in the air. To judge by the *heft* ; to judge by the weight. *South* [of England].” This noun is also used colloquially in America (as a correspondent justly remarks) to signify the greater part, or the bulk of any thing, in expressions of this kind : A part of the crop of corn was good, but the *heft* of it was bad.

The verb *To heft*, which here commonly signifies to lift any thing in order to judge of its weight, is not in the dictionaries. Both the noun and the verb are used only by the illiterate.

HELP.

This term is much used in some parts of New England for *servants* ; and is generally applied to female ser-

\* Philosophical and Practical Grammar, p. 113.

vants. *Ex.* My *help* is very good; she is very good *help*. The word *Domestics*, however, is more common.

HET. See *Heat*.

HITHER AND YON.

This expression is often used in the *country-towns* of New England for *here and there*. It is *provincial* in England: "Hither and yon; here and there, backwards and forwards. *North.*" *Grose's Prov. Gloss.* It is never heard in our sea-port towns.

HOLPE or HOLP. (*Pret.* and *part. pass.* of *Help*.)

This antiquated inflection of the verb *to help* is still in use in *Virginia*; where (as a correspondent informs me) it is corrupted into *holped*. Mr. Webster observes, that "it is pronounced *hope*;" and he then gives the following example: "Shall I *hope* you, Sir." *Dissertations on the English Language*, p. 384. A friend, however, informs me, that he never heard it used (as in this example) for the *present* tense, but always, as the *preterite* or *participle passive*; as in this expression: "Will you be *holped* (or *holpe*) to any thing." This "ancient irregular form *holpe*" (in the *preterite*) is also mentioned by Bishop Lowth, as "used in conversation" in England at the period when he wrote. See his *Grammar, Irreg. verbs*, sect. 3. I never heard it during my residence in that country.

HOMINY.

"The white inhabitants [of South Carolina] are extremely fond of the corn bruised and boiled into a pudding, which they call *hominy*. It is eaten with milk, sugar, and butter, and is a favourite dish at breakfast." *Lambert's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 211. Mr. Webster's orthography of this word is *hommony*, and he defines it, "food made of *maize* broken, but *coarse*, and boiled." Hence a vulgar

comparison in many parts of this country—As coarse as hominy.

#### HONORARY.

Some American writers use this adjective instead of *honourable*: *Ex.* It was highly *honorary* to him.

#### TO HOPE.

“We may *hope* the assistance of God. The word *for* or *to receive* is wanting. In this instance *hope*, which is a neuter verb, is turned into an active, and not very properly as to the objective term, assistance. It must be admitted however, that in some old English poets *hope* is sometimes used as an active verb, but it is contrary to modern practice.” *Witherspoon's Druid*, No. 5.

This verb, I think, would not be used, in the manner here mentioned, by American writers of the present day.

#### HORSE-COLT.

“We frequently see in advertisements [in America] these terms, *horse-colt*, *mare-colt*, &c. A *horse-colt* is simply a *colt*; a *mare-colt* merely a *filly*.” *Port-Folio, New Series*, vol. ii. p. 309.

#### HOUSEN (plur. of *house*).

This old plural (as Mr. Webster has observed\*) is still used in New England; but by none except illiterate people. It is also used at this day in some parts of *England*. *Grose* mentions it as a provincialism of *Berkshire*; and another English writer (in the *Monthly Magazine*, vol. xxxviii. p. 114) notices it in his “Specimens of the provincial dialect of *South Wiltshire*.”

#### HUB. The nave of a wheel. *New England*.

This is also an English *provincial* word: “Hubs; naves of wheels.” *Marshall's Rural Economy of the Midland Counties*.

\* *Dissertations on the Eng. Lang.* p. 385.

## ILLY.

This adverb has been much used in America, both in conversation and in writing. It is not to be found in the English Dictionaries, nor is it now used by English authors; the word *ill* (like *well*) being always employed by them both as an *adverb* and *adjective*. *Illy* has been thought by some persons to be of American origin; but this is not the fact. *Ainsworth* has it in the *Latin* part of his Dictionary, as a translation of the adverbs *malè* and *malum*; in the *English* part, however he has *ill* only. In the former edition of this Vocabulary I also mentioned the following (which was pointed out to me by a friend) as an English authority for it: "He then set himself wholly to God unfeignedly, and to do all that was possible in that little remainder of his life which was before him, to redeem those great portions of it, that he had formerly so *illy* employed." *Burnet's Life and Death of the Earl of Rochester*; American edition, published in the *Christian Monitor*, No. xx. p. 112. But a London edition of Burnet's work, which I have since seen, has *ill* in this passage. Another friend informed me, that he believed *illy* was used by *Steele* in the *Spectator*; but he did not recollect in which of the volumes it was. I have not discovered it in that work.

## To IMMIGRATE, IMMIGRATION, IMMIGRANT.

These words were first used in this country, I believe, by Dr. Belknap in his History of New Hampshire. In the preface to the third volume of that work he has the following defence of them: "There is another deviation from the strict letter of the English dictionaries, which is found extremely convenient in our discourses on population. From the verb *migro* are derived *emigrate* and *immigrate*; with the same propriety as from *mergo* are derived *emerge* and *immerge*. Accordingly the verb *immigrate*,

and the nouns *immigrant* and *immigration* are used without scruple in some parts of this volume." There seems to be a convenience, as the learned author observes, in having these words in the language, but in practice they do not appear to have been found necessary; I do not recollect that any American writers (except such as have copied from Dr. Belknap's work) have adopted them. None of them are to be found, I believe, in any of the English dictionaries except *Bailey's* and *Ash's*: these have the verb IMMIGRATE, but not the substantives IMMIGRANT and IMMIGRATION. They are all unknown, I think, to English writers of the present day. Mr. Webster has inserted them in his dictionary; upon the authority, I presume, of Dr. Belknap. Mr. Kendal (the English traveller already quoted) observes, that "*immigrant* is perhaps the only new word, of which the circumstances of the United States has in any degree demanded the addition to the English language." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 252, note.

In Judge *Marshall's Life of Washington*, in one instance where the *American* edition has the word *im-migrations*, the *London* quarto edition substitutes *e-migrations*: "The *im-migrations* from England [into America] continued to be very considerable." p. 62. *Am. ed.* *Lond. ed.* p. 51.)

#### IMPORTUNACY.

This has been called an American word. See *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iii. p. 92. Dr. Johnson, it is true, has not inserted it in his dictionary, though it had been noticed by *Bailey*. *Mason*, however, has it in his *Supplement to Johnson*, upon the authority of Shakspeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Timon*; and *Walker* adopts it from *Mason*. It does not appear to be much used by English writers of the present day.

To IMPROVE. To occupy, make use of, employ.

This word, in the *first* sense, is in constant use in all

parts of New England ; but in the *second* sense (when applied to *persons*, as in the following example) it is not so common : “ In actions of trespass against several defendants, the plaintiff may, after issue is *closed*, strike out any of them for the purpose of *improving* them as witnesses.” *Swift’s System of the Laws of CONNECTICUT*, vol. ii. p. 238.

The following remarks of Dr. *Franklin*, on this and some other words, will not be uninteresting to the reader. They are taken from his letter of Dec. 26, 1789, to Mr. *Webster* :

“ I cannot but applaud your zeal for preserving the purity of our language, both in its expression and pronunciation, and in correcting the popular errors several of our States are continually falling into with respect to both. Give me leave to mention some of them, though possibly they may already have occurred to you. I wish however, that in some future publication of yours, you would set a discountenancing mark upon them. The first I remember is the word *improved*. When I left New England in the year 1723, this word had never been used among us, as far as I know, but in the sense of *ameliorated* or *made better*, except once, in a very old book of Dr. Mather’s, entitled *Remarkable Providences*. As that man wrote a very obscure hand, I remember that when I read that word in his book, used instead of the word *employed*, I conjectured that it was an error of the printer, who had mistaken a short *l* in the writing for an *r*, and a *y* with too short a tail for a *v*, whereby *employed* was converted into *improved* : but when I returned to Boston in 1733, I found this change had obtained favour, and was then become common ; for I met with it often in perusing the newspapers, where it frequently made an appearance rather ridiculous. Such, for instance, as the adver-

usement of a country house to be sold, which had been many years *improved* as a tavern; and in a character of a deceased country gentleman, that he had been for more than thirty years *improved* as a justice of the peace. This use of the word *improve* is peculiar to New England, and not to be met with among any other speakers of English, either on this or the other side of the water.”\*

Notwithstanding Dr. Franklin thus amuses himself with tracing the origin of this word to the *obscure handwriting* of Dr. Mather, it had certainly been used in some parts of *New England* before *Mather's* time; though, as we must presume from Dr. Franklin's remarks, it might not have been used in *Boston*. It occurs in some of the ancient laws of the New England colonies. In the “*Laws, Liberties and Orders*” of the “New-Haven Colony” it is *ordered*, that the Deputies, Constable, or other officers in public trust, “shall from time to time have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbours within the limits of the said Plantation, that all parents and masters do duly endeavour, either by their own ability and labour, or by *improving* such schoolmaster, or other helps and means as the Plantation doth afford, or the family may conveniently provide, that their children and ap-

\* Dr. Franklin then has the following remarks on some other words: “During my late absense in France, I find that several other new words have been introduced into our parliamentary language. For example, I find a verb formed from the substantive *notice*—*I should not have noticed this, were it not that the gentleman, &c.* Also another verb from the substantive *advocate*; *the gentleman who advocates or who has advocated that motion, &c.* Another from the substantive *progress*, the most awkward and abominable of the three; *the committee, having progressed, resolved to adjourn.* The word *opposed*, though not a new word, I find used in a new manner, as, *the gentlemen who are opposed to this measure, to which I have also myself been opposed.* If you should happen to be of my opinion with respect to these innovations, you will use your authority in reprobating them.” *Franklin's Essays*, vol. ii. p. 79. *London edit.*



prentices, as they grow capable, may through God's blessing attain at least so much, as to be able duly to read the Scriptures, and other good and profitable printed books in the English tongue, being their native language," &c. *Certain Lawes, Liberties and Orders, made, granted and established at severall times by the Generall Court of New-Haven Colony*; from 1648 to 1660. It is also applied in the same manner, in a Connecticut law of the year 1690, cited in *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 273: "This Court, considering the necessity that many parents may be under to *improve* their children and servants in labour for a great part of the year, doe order." &c.

This verb, applied to *lands*, occurs also in the *Colony and Province Laws of Massachusetts*, (as was observed in the former edition of this work,) and in some instances it appears to have the signification in question; but in others it is used in the sense of *cultivated*, or *ameliorated*: "Where lands lye in common unfenced, if one man shall *improve* his land by fencing in several, and another shall not, he who shall so *improve* shall secure his lands against other men's cattle, and shall not compel such as joyn upon him, to make any fence with him, except he shall so *improve* in several as the other doth....The like order shall be where any man shall *improve* land against any Town-Common. Provided, this order shall not extend to house-lotts, not exceeding ten acres; but if in such one shall *improve*, his neighbour shall be compellable to make and maintaine one half of the fence between them, whether he *improve* or not." *Massa. Colony Laws, title CATTLE, CORNFIELDS, FENCES, sect. 7. A. D. 1642.*

It is not unworthy of notice, that in the English Abridgment of these laws, published by Neal (in his History of New England), the verb *inclose* is generally substituted for *improve*. I do not recollect seeing *improve*

applied to *houses* (as it now is) or any thing but *lands*, in the old laws of *Massachusetts*.

Though this *verb* is so common in New England, the corresponding *noun*, **IMPROVER**, is not in use ; but we always say, the *occupier* or *occupant* of a house, or land. I have, however, once met with the *noun improver* in the *Laws* of *Massachusetts*.

This use of the *verb improve* is also noticed by Dr. Witherspoon ; (see his *Druid*, No. 7) and in *Webster's Dictionary*.

**IMPROVEMENT**, of a sermon ; the conclusion. *Ex.* "To make some *improvement* of the whole."

This expression, though probably much more common here than in Great Britain, is by no means peculiar to us. In an *English* review of *Sermons by the Rev. John Drysdale, D. D. F. R. S. Edinb.* the following remark is made upon it : "The conclusion [of the sermon] is termed, somewhat inaccurately, *making an improvement* of the whole. The author, we presume, means, deducing from the whole what may contribute to the general improvement." *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 379. In the review of another publication, the word *improvement*, used in the same manner, is noticed by being printed in *Italics*. *Brit. Crit.* vol. iii. p. 345. Both the works here cited are from the pens of Scottish writers.

**IS for INTO.**

Mr. Coleman, in remarking upon the prevalence of this inaccuracy in *New York*, says : "We get *in* the stage, and have the rheumatism *into* our knees." *N. York Evening Post*, Jun. 6, 1814. An observing English friend at *Philadelphia* also speaks of its frequent use there, in the following strong terms : "The preposition *into* is almost

unknown here. They say, *when did you come in town?* *I met him riding in town.*" *B.\**

**INCIDENT.** Liable or subject.

"Such bodies are *incident* to these evils. The evil is *incident* or ready to fall upon the person; the person liable or subject to the evil." *Withersp. Druid*, No. 5.

I have never heard the word *incident* used in this manner in America.

**INCIVISM.** "Unfriendliness to a state or government." *Webst. Dict.*

This Gallicism has never been heard in America since the first years of the French revolution.

**TO INCULPATE; INCULPATION.**

These words are used by some American writers; but they are not in the English dictionaries, and are certainly not much, if at all, used by English writers.

**INDESIRABLE.**

This word is censured in the *Monthly Anthology*, (1807, p. 281). I have never met with it in American publications, except in the instance there cited. A correspondent says, it is "unknown to the English."

**INEXECUTION.** "The extensive discussions which had taken place relative to the *inexecution* of the treaty of peace," &c. *Marsh. Life of Washing.* vol. v. p. 484.

English writers use the term *non-execution*, as Judge Marshall himself commonly does; see pp. 184, 275, 370, 473, &c. of the volume here cited.

**INFECTED.**

The *Annual Review* has hastily criticised Judge Marshall for using this word, in his *Life of Washington*, in a peculiar manner. The remark of the reviewers is:—"Vol. v. p. 144, [Eng. edit.] meaning to

\* The remarks under the signature "*B*" in this work are all from the correspondent here quoted.

praise them. our author says, ‘the patriotic veterans of the revolution, *infected* by the wide spreading contagion of the times, arrayed themselves under the banner of the laws.’ *Ann. Rev.* vol. vii. p. 241. But the word *infected* is an error of the press, in the *London* edition, for *un-infected*. In this same sentence there is another alteration in the *London* edition: “the *patriotic* veterans,” for “*patriot* veterans,” as it stands in the *American* edition.\*

#### INFERIOR.

“*Inferior* and *superior* (says an English friend) in a *positive* sense, are almost universal in New England: A *very superior* mare, a *most inferior* horse,” &c. *B.* These expressions are, I presume, more frequently heard in America than in Great Britain; but Englishmen sometimes employ these adjectives “in a *positive* sense,” even in writing: “The throwing out of employ all *very inferior* la-

\* The *London octavo* edition of this work (if we may judge from the examples given in the *Annual Review*) must be grossly incorrect; for of the *thirteen* instances which the reviewers give of *American* inaccuracies in language, several are errors of the *English* press. The word *infected* for *un-infected* has been mentioned above. Another instance occurs in vol. ii. p. 551, *London octavo* edit. [p. 479, *Amer. ed.*] where the reviewers suppose the author uses *patrole* for *parole*: But the *London quarto* and the *American* editions both have *parole*. No American would confound these two words. A *typographical* error also in the name of Dr. Robertson (which in the *London octavo* edition, it seems, is printed *Robinson*, though the *quarto* has *Robertson*) and an inadvertence on the part of the author, in giving that distinguished historian the title of *Mr.* instead of his usual one of *Dr.* are made the subject of an unmerited degree of ridicule. In the *American* edition, the name is correctly printed. We have enough *corruptions* of our own to answer for, without being responsible for those which the English printers make for us. We should never, I trust, be so wanting in candour, as to charge these Reviewers with ignorance, because they have in this very article given our countryman *Minot* the name of *Major*.

bourers." *Brit. Crit.* vol. ix. p. 688. The engravings.... are of mean and *very inferior* execution." vol. xxi. p. 506. "Buonanni was contemporary with Grew, and....published at Rome his *Recreazione* &c. a work of *very superior* merit." *Rees's Cyclop.* art. *Conchology*, col. 19.

**INFLUENTIAL.** Having influence. *Ex.* "Persons who are strangers to the *influential* motives of the day." *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 380. "He was a very *influential* man."

*Johnson* and other lexicographers have this word in the sense of *exerting* influence ; but it does not appear to be used now in England. *Burke*, in one instance, seems to use the word *prevalent* as we should *influential* : "I know that he and those who are much *prevalent* with him," &c. *Burke's Works, Letter Fourth on the Regicide Peace*, vol. v. p. 89. Amer. ed. An English friend observes, that "*influential* is clearly an American word." *A.*

**To INFORM.**

This verb is much used in the United States in the following manner : The master of the ship *informs* that he left London on such a day ; for *informs* us, or *says*, or *states*, &c. A correspondent says, that "*inform* is thus used by English merchants ; but it is merely a technical expression." *A.*

**To INFRACT.**

This is used by some American authors instead of the verb *to infringe*, which is commonly employed by English writers.

**INFURIATED.**

This is a favourite word with a few American writers ; but it is not in general use among us. The adjective *infuriate* is often used by the poets, and is in the English dictionaries ; but the participle *infuriated* and its verb are not. Mr. Webster has the verb, as well as the adjective.

## INSULARITY.

Used by some American writers. It is not in the English dictionaries, and, I believe, is never used by English authors.

INSURRECTIONARY. "Suitable to insurrections." *Mason*.

This word was criticised a few years ago, in a review of "*Letters from Europe by a native of Pennsylvania*," (see *Monthly Anthology* for 1806,) as an *Americanism*, or, as the reviewers with some severity call it, an *Indianism*. It is not in *Johnson's* dictionary, but it is in *Mason's* Supplement, where this passage is cited from *Burke*—"True democratic, explosive, *insurrectionary* nitre." To which may be added the following, from the posthumous works of the same author—"Why, the author writes, that on their murderous *insurrectionary* system their own lives are not sure for an hour."—"Whilst the sansculotte gallery instantly recognized their old *insurrectionary* acquaintance," &c. *Burke's Fourth Letter on the Regicide Peace*, vol. v. of his *Works*, pp. 34, 35. Amer. ed.

This word is a production of the French Revolution, and perhaps (like the term *sansculotte* and some others) would not have been used by *Burke*, except when writing upon the affairs of France. I have never met with it in any other English author, and it is not mentioned by any of the lexicographers but *Mason*.

## INTERVAL-LAND, OR INTERVALE.

"Along the borders of the rivers, at a distance from one another, are some small portions of meadow, or of those culturable uplands, that, in New England, are included with meadow in the denomination of *interval-lands*." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. iii. p. 71. Mr. Kendal then criticises Dr. Morse for using *interval* as synonymous with *meadow*, observing, that "if the word *interval* were synonymous with *meadow*, it ought upon no account to

be employed ; and it is only because it is not synonymous, that it is useful, and deserves to be retained....The *interval*, intended in New England geography, is the *interval* or *space between a river and the mountains*, which on both sides uniformly accompany its course at a greater or less distance from its margin. Hence *interval-lands* include meadow and uplands, and in general the whole of the narrow valley, through which in these regions the rivers flow." p. 183. Dr. *Belknap* uses the word *intervale* ; observing, that he can "cite no very ancient authority for it ; but it is well understood, in all parts of New England, to distinguish the low land adjacent to the fresh rivers, which is frequently overflowed by the *freshets*, and which is accounted some of our most valuable soil, because it is rendered permanently fertile by the bountiful hand of nature, without the labour of man." *Hist. of New Hampshire*, vol. iii. preface, p. 6. See *Bottom-Lands*.

**INVOLVEMENT.** "The inclination of the public led to a full indulgence in the most extravagant partiality, but not to an *involvement* in the consequences which that indulgence would infallibly produce." *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 401.

This word is not in common use in this country. I never met with it in any other work ; nor have I ever heard it used in conversation. It is not in the dictionaries.

**IRREPEALABILITY.** "The quality of not being repealable." *Webst. Dict.*

Mr. Webster, in the Preface to his Dictionary, remarks, that "in every country, where the English language is used, improvements will continually demand the use of new terms ;" and, after adducing instances of new terms in several arts and sciences, he adds—"A new system of civil polity in the western world originates new

ideas, and brings into question the *constitutionality* of powers, the *IRREPEALABILITY* of laws, and the *removability* of men from office." p. xxii.

The term *irrepealability* may perhaps be found necessary, or at least useful; but I do not recollect that any of our writers have yet adopted it: I never met with it in any work except Mr. Webster's.

#### TO ISSUE.

The *British Critic* for 1809 (vol. xxxv. p. 182) censures the use of this verb, in the following passage of the Rev. Dr. Bancroft's *Life of Washington*: "The northern campaign had *issued* in the capture of General Burgoyne, p. 169." It is also used by Dr. *Ramsay*, in his *Life of Washington*, and censured by one of our own writers, in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iv. p. 664. Dr. *Witherspoon* has not mentioned this word among his *Americanisms*, but has himself used it: "A curious debate in a certain family, which *issued* in nothing."

It is also used occasionally by some of the writers of Great Britain: "This is our first justification, which, if duly improved, will *issue* in our full and final justification." *Taylor on Romans*, as cited in the *British Critic*, vol. iv. p. 30. "The application of this test will *issue* in a very favourable judgment, concerning the work which has been examined." *Christian Observer*, vol. ii. p. 97. "In what can such a contest *issue*, but in the utter discomfiture of a conquering or invading army." *Edinb. Review*, vol. xxiv. p. 255.

ITEM. An intimation, a hint. *Ex.* I had an *item* of his designs.

This is a low word, and is used here only by the illiterate. It is in *Johnson's* dictionary; but *Grose* has it among his *provincial* words, and marks it as peculiar to the *North* of England. A friend informs me, that "it is colloquial in this sense, among many of the English."



**JAG.** A small load. *New England.*

*Grose* has this among the *provincial* words of England: "Jag, a small parcel or load of any thing, whether on a man's back or in a carriage. *Norfolk.*" *Bailey* also marks it as a "*Country*" word.

**To JEOPARDIZE.**

This verb is often seen in the Debates of Congress, as they are reported in the newspapers. It is doubtless a corruption of the ancient verb *to jeopard*, as *deputize* is of *depute*. But even the verb *to jeopard*, which is in all the dictionaries, *Dr. Johnson* says, is "obsolete;" *Ash* says, it is "not much used;" and *Barclay*, that it is "used only in *Divinity*." It is hardly necessary to remark, that *to jeopardize* is not in any of the dictionaries.

**JEOPARDY.**

This noun (as well as the verb just mentioned) is sometimes to be found in American works. *Dr. Johnson* observes, that it is "not in use."

**JOCKEYING.** "The farmers impeached their honesty, accusing them of unfair dealing, or, as their phrase is, of *jockeying*." *Kendal's Trav.* vol. i. p. 87.

The verb *to jockey*, signifying "to cheat, to trick," is in *Johnson's*, and other English dictionaries; and a friend informs me, that it is "a coarse but well known colloquial word in England." In America also it is considered as a low word.

**JOUNCE, n. and To JOUNCE, v.**

These are sometimes heard in conversation; but they are considered as low words. They are *provincial* in England: "*Jounce*; a jolt or shake; a *jouncing* trot; a hard rough trot; *Norfolk.*" *Grose's Prov. Gloss.*

**KEDGE.** Brisk, in good health and spirits. *Ex.* How do you do to day? I am pretty *kedge*.

This is used only in a few of the *country* towns of

New England, but is unknown on the sea-coast. It is *provincial* in England. *Grose* defines it, "brisk, lively;" and says it is used in the *South*. *Ray* also has it among his "*South and East Country words*," and explains it thus—"brisk, budge, lively. *Suffolk*."

**TO KEEP.** To stay at the house of any person. *Ex.* Where do you keep? I keep at my friend's house. *New England*.

This is noted as an *Americanism* in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. v. p. 428. It is less used now than formerly. An English friend remarks, that "there are certain situations in which this word may perhaps be used in *England*; as, for example, in Universities." *A.*

**KEEPING-ROOM.** A parlour. *New England*. "The latter spent his evening in the parlour, or, as it is called, the *keeping-room*." *Kendal's Trav.* vol. iii p. 264.

This is now more frequently called the *sitting-room*. The term is *provincial* in *England*: "*Keeping-room, a sitting-room. Norfolk*." *Marsh. Rural Econ. Norf.* The term *parlour*, however, is in general use in the sea-port towns of New England.

**KELTER or KILTER** (pronounced *Kilter*). Good condition, order. *Ex.* This cart, or plough, is out of *kilter*.

This is very common among the farmers of New England. It is also one of the *provincial* words of Great Britain: "*Kelter or kilter; frame, order, condition. North*. In good case or *kelter*; in good condition." *Grose's Prov. Gloss.\** It is also mentioned by *Marshall* among his "*Provincialisms of Yorkshire*," and by *Ray* in his "*South and East Country Words*;" and in the *Monthly Magazine* (Mar. 1815) it is given among specimens of the *Essex Dialect*."

**KENTAL.** A quintal. "Our whale-oils pay six livres the *ken-*

\* *Grose* adds—"Hence *helters-kelter*, a corruption of *helter*, to hang, and *kelter*, order, i. e. hang order, or in defiance of order.

*tal.*” *Report of the Secretary of State (Mr. Jefferson) on Commercial Restrictions &c.* Dec. 16, 1793, p.

This manner of writing the word *quintal* is not the “*American*” orthography, but is, I believe, peculiar to the author of the Report here cited. Mr. *Webster’s* orthography, which is *Kentle*, approaches to this, and is conformable to the common pronunciation of the word. But the universal orthography of other American writers is *quintal*.

**KNOLL.** A little round hill. In common use in New England.

It is mentioned by *Ray* (and by *Grose*, who copies *Ray*) among the *North Country* words of Great Britain. “It is used (says an English friend) among the gentry of England, in particular, when describing country scenery.” *A.*

**LAND-BOARD.** *Vide* SEA-BOARD.

**LANGUISHMENT.** “This disease [pulmonary consumption] which, after the *country-people* among the whites, they [the Indians] call a *languishment*.” *Kendal’s Trav.* vol. ii. p. 211, where the author is speaking of the Island of *Nantucket*. The word is not in general use in New England.

**LAY. n.** Terms or conditions of a bargain; price. *Ex.* I bought the articles at a good *lay*; he bought his goods on the same *lay* that I did mine. *A low word. New England.*

**To LAY, for LIE.**

Dr. Witherspoon observes, that “this is not only a prevailing vulgarism in conversation, but has obtained in public speaking, and may be often seen in print. I am even of opinion (he adds) that it has some chance of overcoming all the opposition made to it, and fully establishing itself by custom, which is the final arbiter in all such cases. Lowth in his Grammar has been at much pains to correct it; yet though that most excellent treatise has been in the hands of the public for many years, this word seems

to gain, instead of losing ground." *Druid*, No. 6. This vulgarism (which is common in England as well as in America) is much less frequent here at the present day, than it was when Dr. Witherspoon wrote: It is still heard in *conversation*, but in *writing* every body avoids it.

One of the latest instances, which I have observed, of this error in an English *writer*, is the following (quoted by the *British Critic*, vol. iii. p. 532, note) from *Poems by John Bullake*, B. A. London, 1794. The Reviewers observe—"In p. 4, we have the *common* but vulgar mistake of the verb *to lay* for *to lie* :

'And on the ground to catch each sound would *lay*.'

LEANTO or LEAN-TO, *n.* (commonly pronounced *linter*.)

"The part of a building which appears to lean upon another." *Webst. Dict.*

This is not in Johnson; but Mason has it in his Supplement, where it is called an *architectural* term, and is defined thus: "A low shallow building joined to a higher;" which is the *New England* signification of it.

A *lean-to* is here commonly united with the principal part of a building in such a manner, that the roof of the whole appears much *sloped*; and in a late English work I find the provincial word *lented* with that signification: "*Lented*, sloped or glanced off; a verb formed from *lean'd*." Pegge's *Supplement to Grose's Provincial Glossary*.

LEASE, *n.* A *cow-lease*; that is, a right of pasturage for a cow, in a *common* pasture. *Used in some towns of New England.* Grose has the term as a *provincialism* of the *West* of England, and remarks, that it is perhaps the same as *Lees*.

TO LEGISLATE.

This verb has long been as common, with *American* writers, as its nouns, *legislation*, *legislature*, &c. but the

*English* have not, I think, until lately, made use of it. *Walker* has inserted it in his dictionary, but (as he remarks) it is “neither in *Johnson* nor *Sheridan* ;” nor is it in *Mason’s* Supplement to *Johnson*. It was noticed, however, several years ago in *Entick’s* dictionary, (edition of 1795) ; and, more lately, in an edition of *Sheridan*, “corrected and improved by Salmon ;” and also in the octavo edition of *Perry’s* dictionary, published in 1805. Mr. Webster adopts it from *Entick*.

#### LEGISLATIVE.

This, like the term *executive*, is used in America as a noun ; but it is by no means so common as that word. In the Preface to the *London* edition of *Ramsay’s History of the Revolution*, it is classed among those *American* names, which the English “have listened to without as yet adopting.” See the remarks on the term EXECUTIVE.

#### LENGTHY.

This word has been very common among us, both in writing and in the language of conversation ; but it has been so much ridiculed by Americans as well as Englishmen, that in writing it is now generally avoided. Mr. Webster has admitted it into his dictionary ; but (as need hardly be remarked) it is not in any of the *English* ones. It is applied by us, as Mr. Webster justly observes, chiefly to writings or discourses. Thus we say, a *lengthy* pamphlet, a *lengthy* sermon, &c. The English would say, a *long* or (in the more familiar style) a *longish* sermon. It may be here remarked, by the way, that they make much more use of the termination *ish* than we do ; but this is only in the language of conversation.

The *British Critic*, in a review of *Hamilton’s Report on Manufactures*, thus notices *lengthy* : “We shall at all times with pleasure receive from our transatlantic brethren real improvements of our common mother-tongue

but we shall hardly be induced to admit such phrases as that at p. 93 [*London* edition] —“more lengthy” for *longer*, or *more diffuse*. But perhaps it is an established Americanism.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. ii. p. 286 ; for Nov. 1793.

As some American writers have thought this noted word to be highly useful and even necessary, it may not be uninteresting to see how English writers can dispense with the use of it in cases where they do not employ the word *long*. In addition to the word *diffuse* (which is employed above by the *British Critic* as one of the *synonymes*) they use *lengthened*, *prolonged*, *extended*, *extensive*, and *prolix*, as will be seen in the following examples ; in all of which, I think, many Americans would have chosen *lengthy* : “For the purpose of bestowing upon him, and upon all that belong to him, a *lengthened* and elaborate eulogy.” *Quart. Rev.* vol. x. p. 314. “The editor apologizes . . . . for the *prolonged* account of the life of Dr. Doddridge,” &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. iv. p. 164. “We gave rather an *extended* account of this ingenious work.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. viii. p. 91. “To which . . . . we have allotted an *extensive* account.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. vi. pref. p. ii. “This rather *extensive* and well written paper.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. xxi. p. 352. “We have neither time nor inclination to enter into a *prolix* statement of particulars. *Brit. Crit.* vol. v. p. 238.

I never heard *lengthy* among Englishmen ; but an English friend (who has, however, been in America for several years past) observes in rather an emphatic manner, that “there certainly was a time in *England*, when this word would have passed unnoticed in the first societies in a familiar conversation. Criticism (he adds) may since have struck it out of use.”

#### LIABILITY.

This is in common use throughout the United States

in the *popular* as well as *legal* style ; but it is not in the English dictionaries. None of the lexicographers, indeed, have noticed the word *liableness*, except *Entick* and *Mason* ; the latter of whom gives it on the authority of *Butler's Analogy*. *Liability* is in common use among English *lawyers* ; and a correspondent remarks, that it is “ a word which any Englishman might use in haste, and for want of a better ; though he might wish to find a better when at leisure, particularly for his *written* compositions.” *A.*

**LICIT.** Lawful.

This word was criticised in the *Monthly Anthology* (1804, p. 54) in a review of the “ *Miscellaneous Works of David Humphreys, Esq.*” The reviewers say, “ There is no such word as *licit*, and we cannot allow the author, respectable as he is, to coin language.”

**LICK** or **SALT-LICK.** “ A salt spring is called a *lick*, from the earth about them being furrowed out in a most curious manner, by the buffalo and deer, which lick the earth on account of the saline particles with which it is impregnated.” *Imlay's Topographical Description of the Western Territory of N. America*, p. 46. 2d edit.

**LIFT.** *n.* Used by the farmers in some parts of New England to signify a sort of gate without hinges. In some counties of *England* they use the term *lift-gate* for the same thing : “ Lift-gate ; a gate without hinges, being lifted into notches in the posts. *Norfolk.*” *Marshall's Rural Econ. Norf.*

**LIKE** for **AS** or **LIKE AS** : *Ex.* “ He carries them *like* he does : Why don't you strike *like* I do.”

This is common in some of the *Southern*, and (as a correspondent informs me) in some of the *Western* States ; but it is not used by people of education.

**LIKELY.** Sensible, intelligent. *New England.*

“ Throughout the British dominions, and in most parts of the United States, the epithet *likely* conveys an idea of mere personal beauty, unconnected with any moral or intellectual quality. But in *New England* . . . a man or woman as deformed as a Hottentot or an Ourang Outang, may be *likely*, or *very likely*. The epithet there refers to moral character.” *Port Folio*, Oct. 1809, p. 535.

**LINKS.** Sausages. Used in some of the *country* towns of New England. It is also used in *Suffolk* in England. See *Grosce's Prov. Gloss.*

**LINTO.** See *Leanto*.

**LISTER.** “ One who receives and makes returns of ratable estate. *Connecticut*.” *Webst. Dict.*

**LIT or LIGHT.** (*pret. and part. of to light.*)

This word is censured, in a review of *Bancroft's Life of Washington*, in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iv. p. 666. The reviewers say, “ it has never been admitted into good company, and we hope never will be.” This form of the verb is to be found in all the dictionaries ; and in this country, as in England, it is much used in conversation. Bishop Lowth remarks, (*See chap. on Irregular Verbs, sect. 1.*) that “ the *regular* form is preferable, and prevails most in writing ;” and this is agreeable to the general practice in *America*.

The *British Critic* thus condemns the use of this irregular form of the verb in a modern English work : “ *Lit*, in two or three places, for *lighted*—a terrible vulgarism.” vol. ix. p. 313 ; in a review of the *Sea, a Poem by John Bidlake*, London, 1796.

**To LOAN.**

In the preface to the London edition of *Ramsay's History of the American Revolution*, this is classed among those American verbs, which the English “ have altogether declined to countenance ;” and “ which, (says



the Editor) appear to be verbs invented without any apparent reason."

**To LOCATE.** 1. To place. "A number of courts properly *located* will keep the business of any country in such condition as but few suits will be instituted." *Debates on the Judiciary*, p. 51.

2. "To survey or fix the bounds of unsettled land, or to designate a tract by a writing." *Webst. Dict.* This verb is not in the *English* dictionaries.

**LOCATION.** "The act of designating or surveying and bounding land; the tract so designated." *Webst.*

This substantive is in the English dictionaries, but not in this sense.

**LOT.** "A share or division of land; a field." *Webst. Dict.* Hence, a *house-lot*, *shop-lot*, &c.

Mr. Webster, after observing upon several new terms, which the peculiar circumstances of our country have rendered necessary in the language, thus mentions the word *lot* with some others: "*Lots* and *locations* of land, with *located* and *unlocated rights*, form in this country a new language, to which the British people are strangers."\* In the first settlement of this country a certain portion or *share* of land was *allotted* to each inhabitant of a town; and this was called his *lot*. Both *lot* and *allotment* occur in our early laws: "In any and every town of this province where several *allotments* of upland and meadow are inclosed and fenced in one general field . . . . the proprietors of each *lot* respectively during the time of his or their feeding, planting, mowing, or otherwise improving his part in such general field, shall make and maintain his or their respective part of the whole fence, according to the quantity of acres of land contained in his or their *allotment*," &c. *Mass. Provincial Stat.* & *Geo.* cap. 3.

\* *Compendious Dictionary*, pref. p. xxii.

**LUMBER.** "Timber in general ; but chiefly small timber, as boards, staves, hoops, scantling," &c. *Webst. Dict.*

**LUMBERER.** "To this mill the surrounding *lumberers* or sellers of timber bring their logs," &c. *Kendal's Travels*, vol. iii. p. 33. A technical term used only in those parts of the United States, where *lumber* is procured.

**MAD.** Angry, vexed.

"I was quite *mad* at him, he made me *mad*. In this instance *mad* is only a metaphor for angry. This is perhaps an *English* vulgarism, but it is not found in any accurate writer, nor used by any good speaker, unless when poets or orators use it as a strong figure, and to heighten the expression, say, he was *mad* with rage." *Withersp. Druid*, No. 5.

*Mad*, in the sense of *angry*, is considered as a low word in this country, and at the present day is never used except in very familiar conversation. It seems that it is also used in this manner in *Ireland*. In Miss Edgeworth's *Castle Rack Rent*, an *Irishman* says—"My lady would have the last word, and Sir Murtagh grew *mad*;" that is, "grew angry;" a meaning, which the author thinks it necessary to explain to her *English* readers in the Glossary to the work. The same use of the word by an *Irish* youth in the *Eton Montem* (Edgeworth's Parent's Assistant) is the cause of his giving offence to one of his *English* fellow students, who is not reconciled to him until the *Irish* meaning of the term is explained. *Mad* is also used in the same sense in the *North* of England: "Mad ; angry. He made mad.\* I was mad at him. *North*. See Old Plays, 2d edit. vol. i. p. 65." *Pegge's Supplement to Grose's Provincial Glossary*. It is also put into the mouth of one of the characters in the *Spectator*, No. 176: "Indeed, my dear, you make me *mad* some-

\* Qu. if this is not an error of the press for—he made *me* mad.

times, so you do." An English friend remarks, that "this word, in the sense of being *angry*, is certainly very common in *England*; but it is rarely employed unless in conversation. The English say, 'a man is mad with himself, or at himself.' That the style of the expression quoted from the *Spectator* is only that of *conversation*, may be inferred from the manner, in which it is introduced in that work—a work, by the way, of very mixed authority and very various merit." *A.*

The *verb* TO MAD, in the sense of *to make angry*, is also in use in many parts of this country; but it is considered as a mere vulgarism.

#### MADAM.

"Here and in some neighbouring places it has been and still is the practice, to prefix to the name of a deceased female of some consideration, as the parson's, the deacon's, or the doctor's wife, the title of *Madam*." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 44; where the author is speaking of *Plymouth* in Massachusetts. This practice (like that of giving magistrates the title of 'Squire) prevails in most of the *country-towns* of New England; but is scarcely known at the present day in the *sea-port* towns.

#### MANKIND.

Mr. *Kendal* quotes the following, as an expression used in the state of *Vermont*: "If the government can put *mankind* in gaols," &c.; and he then makes this remark—"It is to be observed, that the word *mankind*, so ludicrous in its application here, is frequently used in New England, as in this example, for *men*, in the indefinite sense." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. iii. p. 253. This use of the word is, I think, unknown in the towns on the sea-coast of New England.

**MAROONING.** *Used in this expression—"A marooning party."*

A friend, who has resided in Charleston (South Caro-

lina) observes, that "the country about Charleston is not so thickly settled as in Massachusetts; and therefore a *marooning* party always carry their provisions with them: I think it always means a *party to the sea-shore*."

#### MEADOW.

In New England this word means exclusively *grass land*, which is moist or subject to being overflowed; and land, which is not so, is called *upland*. In *England* also, the term *meadow* is used among *agriculturists* in the limited sense above mentioned. But there it has also a more general signification, conformable to its etymology; that is, land that may be *mowed*.\* Accordingly it is defined by *Bailey*—"Pasture land, yielding grass, hay;" and *Sheridan* (who is followed by *Walker*) also defines it—"a rich pasture ground, from which hay is made." A similar explanation of it is given by several other lexicographers. On the other hand, *Dr. Johnson* gives it only the limited signification—"Ground somewhat watery, not ploughed, but covered with grass and flowers."

#### MEAN for MEANS.

Many American writers, following the Scottish models, make use of *mean* instead of *means*. *Ex.* "It was the best *mean* of bringing the negotiation to a happy issue." *Marsh. Life of Washington*, vol. v. p. 546. "That [party] which had been reproached with a desire to accumulate debt as a *mean* of subverting the republican system." p. 604; and in other places. But the established practice among *English* writers from the time of *Addison* to the present day, has been to use the plural *means*. A few writers, however, among the *English*, have struggled against this general usage; but *Dr.*

\* "Meadow, mead. Ang. Saxon, *mad* (i. e. *mowed*) *mowed*; the past participle of *marwan*." *Diversions of Purley*.

Johnson himself, though he considers those who employ the plural *means* with an adjective singular, as using it “not very grammatically,” observes, that “the *singular* in this sense is now *rarely* used.” Bishop Lowth, without denying that the general practice is to use the plural *means* with an adjective singular, is of opinion, that we ought either to say *by this mean*, *by that mean*, &c. or *by these means*, and *by those means*, &c. See his *Grammar*, *ch. on Sentences*, *note 1*. Dr. Priestley says—“The word *means* belongs to the class of words, which do not change their terminations on account of number ; for it is used alike in both numbers. *Lest this means should fail*. Hume’s *Hist.* vol. viii. p. 65. Some persons, however, (he adds) use the singular of this word, and would say, *lest this mean should fail* ; and Dr. Lowth pleads for it ; but custom has so formed our ears, that they do not easily admit this form of the word, notwithstanding it is more agreeable to the general analogy of the language.” *Priestley’s Grammar*, *Notes*, *sect. 1*.

Dr. Campbell (contrary to the practice of the Scottish writers in general) uses *this means*, *that means*, &c ; and, after alluding to the opinions of Johnson, Lowth, and Priestley, expresses himself in the following strong terms : “That however the appearance of solecism may induce critics, who are accustomed to attend to the rules of syntax, to avoid the expressions in question, yet “no person of taste, I presume, will venture so far to violate the present usage, and consequently to shock the ears of the generality of readers, as to say, *By this mean*, or *By that mean*.” *Philos. of Rhet.* B. ii. ch. 2. sect. 2. p. 216, *Boston edit.*

The *British Critic*, in a review of *Sermons by John Disney*, expresses a similar opinion : “We observe in some passages, that the author uses the expression of a *mean*, for that by which we do any thing. How the sin-

gular of *means*, in this sense, became obsolete, we know not, *but it is so*; and *Means* itself has since been sometimes made singular by violence. We heartily wish a *mean* revived by common consent; but till it is, as there is something in it that offends the ear, we think it more advisable to throw it always into the plural, or to employ another phrase." *Brit. Crit.*, vol. 1. p. 159, *note*.

The expressions, *THAT means*, may be defended by the ancient use of the word *that*, which like the word *it* (according to Horne Tooke) was applied by the old writers "indifferently to *plural* nouns and to singular;" and this was the practice as late as the time of Sir Thomas More. The following are some of the authorities cited by *Tooke* on this point: "There was a statute or ii denysed to take away *THAT* peines of the church, that were before alwaies ordeined and used against married priestes"—"to the entent they might the more fully and frely repose themselves in *THAT* unspeakable joyes with which Christ feedethe them." p. 140 and 284 of a *Traictise by Dr. Martin*, "who (says Tooke) wrote accurately and was no mean scholar." Sir Thomas More also uses it in the same manner: "This pleasure undoubtedly farre excelleth all *THAT* pleasures that in this life maie be obtained. *Life of Picus*, p. 12. *THAT* euyl aungels the deuilles. p. 386, of his *Workes*." See *Diversions of Purley*, part 2. p. 47. *Amer. edit.*

#### MEMBER OF THE CHURCH.

"Returning to his house I missed a young man who had been with us; and on inquiring for him, was informed, that he had stayed behind, to receive the sacrament, with the addition, that he was a *Member of the church*. I was at length made to understand, that the *Church* consists in a narrow circle within the circle of settled, qualified and approved inhabitants, as that is within the circle

of the *Society*; and that it is only to the *church* that the sacrament of the Last Supper is administered." *Kendal's Travels*, vol. i. p. 115. *Members of the church* are frequently called here, by way of eminence, *professors of religion*; and this appellation (as a friend first remarked to me) is also used among sects of Christians in England: "*Professors of religion* have their own peculiar class of besetting sins." *Christian Observer*, vol. xiii. p. 445.

#### MIGHTY for VERY.

An intelligent friend, who has travelled in *Virginia*, informs me, that he "found the adverb *mighty* in common use, in the conversation of all classes of people in that State, as precisely synonymous with *very*. *Ex. gr. Mighty cold—mighty near ten o'clock—a mighty fine man, &c.*"

#### TO MILITATE.

American writers often use the preposition *with* after this verb: The English say, to militate *against*. *Ex.* "It militates equally *against* the whole," &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 244. "The few instances of Enclitics . . . so far *militate against* it," &c. Vol. viii. p. 526.

#### MISSION.

This word, till lately, was generally used to signify a *religious embassy*; as it is explained by Dr. Johnson. It was first employed as a *diplomatic term*, I believe, by *American* writers; but it seems now to be used in the same manner in Great Britain. "He had heard it reported, that the gentleman [Mr. Rose], who had been sent on a *mission* to America," &c. *Debates in Parliament*, Feb. 26, 1808. "The *French mission* was still suffered to remain at Stockholm." *Edinb. Rev.* vol. xxi. p. 155. An English friend however makes the following remark on it—"In England it may be doubted whether this word is now used, even in politics, in a confined and technical sense."

In the idea of an Englishman a person may be sent by a government to its *own subjects*, as well as to a *foreign court*. Nor need the party sent to a foreign court, on some of these missions, be clothed with any ‘official’ title.” *A.*

**TO MISSIONATE.** To perform the services of a missionary.

“A low ecclesiastical word (says a learned clerical correspondent) used in conversation” in America. It is also used sometimes in theological *publications*. A friend has referred me, for an instance of it, to the *Missionary Magazine*, vol. ii. p. 12 and 13 ; but it is there used only in the familiar style of a letter.

**MOCCASON or MOGGASON** (commonly pronounced *móggason*.)

“A shoe of soft *lether*\* without a sole, ornamented round the ankle.” *Webst. Dict.* An Indian name.

**MOUGHT.** (*pret.* of *Might*.)

“*Mought* for *might* is heard in most of the *States*, but not frequently except in a few towns.” *Webster’s Dissertations*, p. 111. But this is only among the illiterate. This old preterite is also mentioned as a “*Londonism*,” in *Pegge’s* very amusing “*Anecdotes of the English Language*,” where it is thus ironically defended :

“This word is allowed by *Bailey* in his dictionary (*Scott’s* edit.) and by *Dr. Johnson*, to have been formerly used for the modern word *might* ; though they both observe that *mought* is now grown obsolete. So much the better ; for professed Antiquaries, my dear Sir, of all men, ought not to reject a word on account of its *Ancientry* ! *Chaucer* and other writers of an early date use it repeatedly.† “*Dr. Wallis*, speaking of *might*, voluntarily adds—‘*olim mought* ;’ though he does not give us any farther part of its history. It is clear, however, that

\* Mr Webster’s orthography of *leather*.

† “See the Glossaries to *Chaucer* ; *Fairfax’s Tasso* ; and the *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*.”



all these authorities must prevail, as being well founded ; and that our word *might* is merely a delicate pronunciation for female lips, or introduced by foppish refinements under the foolish French appellations of *bon ton*, instead of *mought*, which has stronger claims to regular formation."

*Pegge's Anecdotes*, p. 113 ; *second edit. London, 1814.*

**MUGGY.** Damp, close. Used in speaking of the weather. *Ex.* It is *muggy* weather ; it is a *muggy* day. *New England.*

In this country, the term *muggy* is applied to the *weather* only ; and this use of it is *provincial* in England : "MUGGY ; moist ; muggy weather. North." *Pegge's Supplement to Grose's Prov. Gloss.* "Muggy, poothery,\* (the *oo* short) close, muggy, sultry ; spoken of the weather." *Marshall's Rural Econ. Midland Counties.* But in England the term is applied to other things, as well as to the weather. Dr. Johnson gives the following example : "Cover with *muggy* straw to keep it moist."

**MUSH.** "Food of *maiz*, flower and water boiled. (local)." *Webst. Dict.* Used in some of the *Southern* States, for the same thing that in the *Northern* States is called *Hasty-pudding*.

**MUSICAL.**

A friend informs me, that in some towns in the interior of New England, this word is used in the extraordinary sense of *humorous*. They would say of a man of humour, *He is very musical*.

**NAKED.** "An act of *naked* trust." *First Ripe Fruits*, being a *Collection of Tracts &c. by the Rev. John Mason, New York, 1803.*

The English Reviewers quote this expression (among others) as an instance of what they call the "occasional

\* This word "poothery" is entirely new to me.

vulgarisms, possibly Anglo-Americanisms" of Dr. Mason's work. See the review of it in the *Christian Observer*, vol. ii. p. 564. The expression is not a common one with our writers; I never met with it in any other American work.

*To NARRATE.* "To relate, to tell." *Johnson.*

This verb is noticed, by being printed in *Italics*, in some English works, where extracts have been made from *American* publications. Dr. Johnson says, it is "a word only used in *Scotland*." Walker, without controverting Johnson's assertion, thus defends the word: "As it is regularly derived from the Latin *narro*, and has a specific meaning to distinguish it from every other word, it ought to be considered as a necessary part of the language. *To tell* seems to imply communication in the most general sense: "as *to tell a story, to tell a secret, &c.* *To relate*, is to tell at some length, and in some order, as to *relate the particulars of a transaction.* But *to narrate* seems to relate a transaction in order from beginning to end; which often becomes insipid and tiresome. Hence the beauty of Pope's—*narrative* old age:

"The poor, the rich, the valiant, and the sage,  
And boasting youth, and *narrative* old age."

In the former edition of this work, I remarked, that I did not think this distinction was observed by English writers. An English friend says—"Walker's distinction is unknown to me; for *narrative* is synonymous to *talkative* in the verse from Pope." He adds, that the verb *to narrate* "is too formal to be much used in English conversation: It has often been used in some authors, but perhaps not always by the best." *A.* It is often used in the *Edinburgh Review*. See, for instance, vol. ii. p. 507, where it is used twice in the same page: But the *English* reviewers rarely employ it. In the *Quarterly Review*

it is condemned in the following strong terms—"The abominable verb '*narrate*,' which must absolutely be proscribed in all good writing." vol. ix. p. 433.

#### NATIONALITY.

Used by some writers in America. I have also met with it once in the *Quarterly Review* ; but it is printed in *italics*. It is a new word, and is not to be found in the dictionaries.

NAVIGATION. Shipping. "The word *navigation* is used in New England for *shipping*, and for *sea-faring*." *Kend. Trav.* vol. i. p. 321, note. It is in constant use in the *first* of these significations, but I never heard it used in the other ; nor do I perceive, how it could well be employed as a substitute for this *adjective*. *Johnson* has "vessels of navigation," as one of the meanings of the word ; but it is on the authority of *Shakspeare* :

"Tho' you untie the winds, and let them fight  
Against the churches, tho' the testy waves  
Confound and swallow *navigation* up."

NEAR *for To or AT* ; in these expressions—The minister plenipotentiary *near* the Court of St. James's—*near* the United States, &c.

This Gallicism was first used here in translations of the diplomatic correspondence between the French and American governments ; and from the language of *translations* ("the great pest of speech," as Dr. Johnson calls them) it has been adopted in many of our original compositions. An English friend has favoured me with the following remarks upon it :

"Some American writers, eminent for the offices they have borne and for their literature, speak of an '*ambassador near a court*;' which is a translation of the French expression of '*ambassadeur près ou auprès d'une cour*.' But as the French say also, '*ambassadeur à Rome*,' and

• ambassadeur à la cour,' why should we desert the old English phraseology of • ambassador *to*, or *at*, a court? To say that a minister is *near* a court, may seem to imply in English, that he is merely in some *adjoining country*; whereas the ordinary English phrases of *to* and *at* are attended with no such ambiguity. Mons. de Calheres, one of the Forty Members of the French Academy of Belles Lettres, and who was also member of the council of Louis XIV, and Secretary of his Cabinet, as well as one of his negotiators at Ryswick, is the authority for the foregoing French expressions on these subjects. He also uses the following expressions as to ministers—'arrivé *dans une cour*—*approchant de la cour*—*ministre pour la cour*, and, *envoyé vers un prince*;' among which the phrase of • minister *for* a court' would better suit the idiom of our language, than that upon which we comment; were it necessary to make any change in our customary form of speaking on this occasion." *A.*

#### NETOP.

This *Indian* word (as a friend informs me) is still used, colloquially, in some towns in the interior of Massachusetts, to signify a *friend*, or (to use a cant word) a *crony*. It is mentioned in *Roger Williams' Key to the Narraganset Language*, published in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, vol. v. p. 82. Williams says, "What cheer, *netop*, is the general salutation of all English towards them [the Indians.]"

#### TO NOTICE.

This is not, as some persons have supposed, an *Americanism*. It is a modern word, and is not in Johnson's dictionary. *Mason* says, it is "a word imported into English conversation from *Ireland*;" but it is now used in *England*, both in conversation and in writing: "This work, which we really thought we had noticed long ago."

*British Critic*, vol. xxxiv. p. 537. "The fourth, which we lately noticed, &c. vol. xxxv. p. 18. The only English dictionary, in which I find it, is *Ash's*; where it is said to be "*not much used*." But that work was published forty years ago.

#### NOTICEABLE.

A correspondent has remarked upon this as an *Americanism*; and he has referred me to the following instance of the use of it: "The moon's limb exhibited very little of that rough or serrated appearance, which was so *noticeable* in 1806. *Memoirs of the Amer. Acad.* vol. iii. p. 248. Mr. *Webster* has admitted it into his dictionary; but it is not in the English ones.

#### TO NOTIFY.

The following remarks of Dr. Witherspoon will explain the American and the English manner of using this verb: "This is to *notify* the public; or the people had not been *notified*. By this is meant *inform* and *informed*. In *English* we do not notify the person of the thing, but notify the thing to the person. In this instance there is certainly an impropriety; for *to notify* is just saying by a word of Latin derivation *to make known*. Now if you cannot say, this is to make the public known, neither ought you to say, this is to notify the public." *Druid*, No. 5. Some *American* writers preserve the English idiom: "The official letter, *notifying* to the Convention the appointment of Mr. Genet," &c. *Marsh. Life of Washing.* vol. v. *Appendix*, p. 18. The practice of writers in *England* seems to have been invariable, from the days of Addison to the present: "Having *notified* to my good friend Sir Roger, that I should set out for London," &c. *Spectat.* No. 132. The act of *notifying* to the world." *Johns. Dict.* under the word PUBLICATION. "The Commander in Chief, therefore, has it in command to convey to all those officers the highest

displeasure of the Prince Regent for conduct so unmilitary and disgraceful, and to *notify to* them that they are no longer officers in his majesty's service." *Duke of York's General Orders, Sept. 10, 1813.* In advertisements in the newspapers, where we should commonly say, *the public, or the inhabitants of the town &c. are hereby notified,* the English would say, *Notice is hereby given,* &c.

NOTIONS. Small wares. *New England.* A low word.

**TO OBLIGATE.**

"The word *oblige* is unnecessary, and has no respectable support." *Review of Mr. Webster's Dict. in the Monthly Anthology*, vol. vii. p. 263. It is in the dictionaries, and is sometimes used by English writers; but it is not considered as an authorized word. The *British Critic*, (in the review of a *Discourse by George Somers Clark, of Trinity College, Oxford*) makes this remark upon it: "We object, however, to the use of the word '*obligated*' for '*obliged*,' a low colloquial inaccuracy." vol. ii. p. 212.

**OBLIGEMENT.**

A friend informs me, that he has sometimes heard this antiquated word used by old people in New England. It is not very common.

**TO OBLIViate.** To cause to be forgotten.

I have never seen this extraordinary word but once in any American publication.

**OBNOXIOUS.**

This has been generally used by American writers in the sense of *odious, offensive, noxious, disagreeable, &c.* "Habit renders the burden not only less *obnoxious*, but less oppressive also." *Marsh. Life of Washing.* vol. v. p. 261. The English formerly used *obnoxious* in the sense of *liable or subject to*; and *Johnson* accordingly explains each of these words by the others. But the practice in England is not invariable. A writer in the *European*

*Magazine*, (for Sept. 1806, p. 182) mentions among the *improprieties* of the present day in *England*, this “use of the word *obnoxious* for *noxious* or *hurtful*; that such a thing is very *obnoxious*. Now, Sir, you know (says he to the editor) that the fact is, that the word is perfectly innocent of any such meaning, and that it simply implies, *incident, liable, or subject to*; such as, that people are *obnoxious* (liable) to *agues*.” The use of this word in the sense of *odious* or *offensive* does not seem to be altogether an *impropriety of the present day*. *Ash* (who wrote forty years ago) mentions this as one of the meanings of the word; he says, however, that “this sense is *colloquial*.” At the present day it is often used in *writing*. “Every proposition made in your parliament to remove the original cause of these troubles by taking off taxes, *obnoxious* for their principle or their design, had been overruled.” *Burke’s Fourth Letter on the Regicide Peace*. “While therefore the Church of Rome declares any mitigation of her most *obnoxious* doctrines to be impossible,” &c. *Quart. Rev.* Jan. 1814, p. 421. The use of *obnoxious*, however, in the sense of *noxious* is severely censured in the *British Critic*: See vol. ix. p. 73.

#### OCCASION.

Dr. Witherspoon ranks the following use of this word among the “local phrases and terms” of New England: “Shall I have *occasion*, i. e. opportunity, to go over the ferry?” I never heard it used in this sense; but it is often used for *need*, in this manner: “I have no *occasion* for it.”

**OCCCLUSION.** A shutting up, closing. “The *occlusion* of the port of New Orleans by the Spaniards was calculated to give general alarm through the United States.” *Letter of President Jefferson to Gov. Garrard, Dec. 16, 1802*.

This word has been often noticed, and ridiculed, by

the English, as if it was a word in general use in America ; which is by no means the case. Some few persons in this country, however, whose writings have reached England, have made use of it ; but, though this may be a reasonable ground with an Englishman for presuming it to be one of our common words, yet the peculiar opinions of a few individuals can no more make a *usage* here than in England ; and this very word has been the subject of as much ridicule in this country, as it has been there. Some persons have supposed that *occlusion* was used here for the first time in the letter above quoted ; but this is not the fact. It was used many years before that, in Dr. Ramsay's *History of the American Revolution*, (published in 1789) vol. i. p. 103 : " He had also hoped, that the prospect of advantage to the town of Salem, from its being made the seat of the custom-house, and from the *occlusion* of the part of Boston, would detach them from the interest of the latter," &c. In the *London* edition of the work, this word, being doubtless new to the English editor, was probably supposed to be an error of the press in the *American* copy, and it is accordingly changed into a word resembling it in sound, and which would occupy the same space in the page, the word *exclusion*. *Occlusion* is in the dictionaries.

#### OFFSET.

This is much used by the *lawyers* of America instead of the English term *set-off* ; and it is also very common, in popular language, in the sense of an *equivalent* : " The expense of the frigates had been strongly urged, but the saving in insurance, in ships and cargoes, and the ransom of seamen, was more than an *offset* against this item." *Marsh. Life of Washing.* vol. v. p. 529. It is not in the dictionaries. In the technical sense of the writers on *agriculture* (that is, for a plant divided from another) it is com-



mon in England as well as in this country ; and it is often used figuratively, by writers on other subjects : “ He avoided giving offence to any of the numerous *offsets* of Presbyterianism.” *Quart. Rev.* vol. x. p. 498.

**OLD for STALE** ; in this expression, *old bread*. *New England*. From the following extract, this seems also to be a *Scotticism* : “ The *Scotticism old bread* seems no way inferior to the *Anglicism stale bread*.” *London Monthly Magazine*, Apr. 1800, p. 239.

**ONCE IN A WHILE**. Dr. Witherspoon has put this among the “ local phrases and terms” of the *Middle States* : “ He will *once in a while*, i. e. *sometimes*, get drunk.” *Druid*, No. 7. It is often used in New England ; and a friend informs me that “ it is colloquial in England.” *A.*

**ONTO**.

A writer in the *Cambridge Literary Miscellany* (vol. ii. p. 217) proposes this as a *new* preposition in our language, to be used in such phrases as these : “ An army marches *onto* the field of battle ; a man leaps *onto* a fence,” &c. In the examples, however, which he gives, there seems to be no need of any thing more than the old simple prepositions, *on*, *upon*, or *to*. The vulgar, indeed, constantly say *on-to* or *onto* ; nor is it, as this writer supposes, a *new* term in *writing*. A friend has referred me to the works of Mr. Marshall, the well known English writer on Agriculture, who uses it ; but he frequently divides it into its two parts, *on* and *to*. “ When the stack has risen too high to be conveniently forked *on to* from the ground,” &c. *Rural Econ. Yorkshire*, vol. ii. p. 444, *London edit.* 1788. And in his *Gloucestershire* (speaking of the method of feeding cattle in Wiltshire) he uses the compound : “ The hay is all carried *onto* the land upon men’s backs,” &c. vol. ii. p. 154, *and in other places*. But Marshall’s works are written in the most *familiar* style ;

and some of the English Reviewers have censured him for what they call (in one of his works) "a new-fangled language of his own." See *Brit. Crit.* vol. xxii. p. 93. An English friend also makes the following remarks on the *agricultural* writers in general: "The English agricultural writers commonly live in the country, and use many provincial terms; and the phraseology of many of them is technical to a degree that is affected. Hence their authority is often not to be quoted in matters of style." *A.*

I had supposed that *on to* had never been used by any *American* writer; but an obliging friend has given me the following example: "Take all your cigarrs and tobacco, and in some calm evening carry them *on to* the common," &c. *Lecture on the evil tendency of the use of Tobacco upon young persons, by Benjamin Waterhouse, M. D.* p. 32.

*To be* OPPOSED TO *for To* OPPOSE. *Ex.* I shall *be opposed* to that measure—He said he should *be opposed* to acts of violence. "Several members were in favour of this motion, but others, who were *opposed* to receding from the ground already taken," &c. *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 206, *et passim*.

Dr. Franklin many years ago censured this use of the verb *oppose* as an innovation. See his remarks in the *Note* at p. 110, *ante*. But at the present day, it is sometimes used by Englishmen. A friend has given me the following instance of it from a well known English work: "To which Mr. Overton *is as much opposed* as he is himself." *Christ. Observer*, vol. iii. p. 692.

*To* ORGANIZE; ORGANIZATION. *Used in speaking of political bodies.*

In the preface to the *London* edition of *Ramsay's History of the American Revolution* these words are mention-

ed as *American* “additions” to the language. “Some of these additions (says the English editor) we have ourselves received, as in the cases of the words ‘organize and organization,’ when applied to political bodies.” p. vi. The compounds *disorganize*, *disorganizer* and *disorganization* (which have been adopted by us since the French Revolution, and are not in any of the English dictionaries) are also often used in the political publications of the day in *England*.

**To ORIGINATE**, *v. a.* “To bring into existence.” *Johns*.

The use of this as an *active* verb has been thought by some persons to be peculiar to *Americans*; but this is not the case. It is not so common with *English* as with *American* writers; but it sometimes occurs in their works. *Burke* uses it: “For the purpose of *originating* a new civil order out of the first elements of society.” *Reflections*; vol. iii. p. 38, of *his Works*, *Amer. edit.* He however generally employs it as a verb *neuter*: See p. 131 and 168, of the same volume. But in the *active* sense it is not considered as an authorized word. An English Review thus mentions it, as one of the “few blemishes in language” of *Discourses on various subjects, by the Rev. Robert Gray*, author of the *Key to the Old Testament*: “We object to the word *originates* used actively.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 95. And in *Marshall’s Life of Washington* (vol. i. p. 33) where the *American* edition has this expression—“*Bartholomew Gosnold, who originated the expedition*”—the *London* edition has—“who had *planned* the expedition.”

**OVER** for **UNDER**. *In these expressions*: “He wrote *over* the signature of Junius. He published some papers *over* his own signature.”

A few of our writers still countenance this unwarrantable innovation; but the principle, on which it is defended, would unsettle the whole language. The use of the

word *under*, in phrases like those above mentioned, is as well established as any English idiom. As it has, however, been questioned, and some writers appear to be serious in their opinion that it is incorrect to use *under*, it seems necessary to give the subject a brief consideration.

Mr. Coleman, the able editor of the New York Evening Post, has repeatedly exposed this "piece of affectation," (as he justly calls it,) and produced the following authorities from Dr. *Johnson* and from *Junius*: "The attention paid to the papers published *under* the name of 'Bickerstaff' induced Steele when he projected a 'Tatler' to assume an appellation, which had already possession of the reader's notice." *Johnson's Life of Swift*. "I admit the claim of a gentleman who publishes in the Gazette *under* the name of *Modestus*." *Junius's Letters*.\* But neither the arguments nor the authorities produced by Mr. Coleman seem to have convinced all the advocates of this new phraseology; for some of them imagine that in one case, at least, it is necessary. They contend, that where a writer assumes a *fictitious* name, we may say *under the signature*, because some *disguise* or concealment is implied; but that where he signs his true name, we should say *over* his signature. But what difference is there, in reality, between the two cases? The advocates of *over* contend, that they are right in the use of that term, because the *writing* is placed *over* or *above* the name of the *writer*; but this is equally true in the case of a *fictitious* and a *real* signature. It is, indeed, a sufficient answer to them, that in *practice*, among the few writers who have adopted *over*, this distinction is *not observed*; but they use the term in

\* See the *New York Evening Post* of March 15, and Nov. 22, 1803. A writer in another newspaper, who adopts the signature of *The Good Old Way*, ironically closes his remarks upon this "awkward and absurd term," as he styles it, by thus employing it—"Given *over* my hand and seal," &c. *Salem Gazette*, Apr. 2, 1813.

both cases indifferently. But, after all, the question is a simple *question of fact*—*What is the practice of the best English writers?* Now it is so well known to be their invariable practice (and I may add, the practice of *our* best writers) to say *under* a name, and *under* a signature, that it will perhaps hardly be credited by English scholars, that any persons, who pretend to speak the English language, could have questioned the propriety of it. To the authorities cited by Mr. Coleman I will subjoin only two or three others: “The first works which were published *under* my name,” &c. *Dedication of the Tatler*. “I really doubt whether I shall write any more *under* this signature.” *Private Letters of Junius to Mr. Woodfall*, No. 5. In the late edition of *Junius* by Woodfall (published in 1812) the expression *under the signature* is continually used; the very title page begins thus: “Junius, including Letters by the same writer *under* other signatures;” and, in the *Advertisement and Preliminary Essay* to this edition, the phrase occurs in almost every page.

**PACKAGE.** A general term, comprehending *bales, boxes, &c.* of merchandize.

This signification of the word is not in the dictionaries; and a mercantile friend informs me, that it has been considered as an Americanism. An English friend, however, remarks, that “it is in use in England; but by the nature of the case, the word cannot be found often in classical authors.” *A.* It has probably been omitted by the lexicographers, as being a term purely *technical*. Besides the general signification above mentioned, it is also often used here among merchants (as a friend informs me) in contradistinction to a bale or other *large* package; in which case an English merchant would use the term *parcel*.

**PACKET.**

To the usual definition of this word, *a vessel that carries*

*letters*, Mr. Webster adds, “In *America* a coasting vesse for *passengers*.” A writer in the *Monthly Anthology*, for Oct. 1809, p. 262 treats this (among other instances) as “an idle attempt to exhibit a distinction” between the English and American significations. The word seems, indeed, to be applied in England to vessels employed for carrying *passengers* and *letters*. The term *packet* has been considered as a mere abbreviation of *packet-boat*; which the English lexicographers define, “a boat for advice or *passengers* :” and this definition of *packet-boat* is adopted by Mr. Webster.

**TO PACKET.** “To ply with a packet.” *Webst. Dict.*

I have never known this verb used in *America*; nor is this signification given in the English dictionaries. It is probably a *local* use of the word.

**PAPPOOSE.** (*Accented on the last syllable.*) “The Indian name of a child.” *Webst. Dict.* Hence, as some have supposed, the vulgar expression of carrying any thing *a-poose back* (for *pickback* or *pickapack*) from the custom among the Indian women of carrying their children, or *pappooses*, on their backs. The term *pappoose* is only used in speaking of *Indian* children.

**TO PARADE.** “To assemble and arrange, exhibit.” *Webst. Dict.* Used in speaking of drawing up troops. *Ex.* The general *paraded* his troops at such a place.

This verb is not in the *English* dictionaries, and I do not recollect hearing it used in this manner by Englishmen; but as a verb *nenter*, it is not unfrequent, in the familiar style: “One hour you shall see him *parading* Pall Mall.” *Parliamentary Portraits*, p. 148.

**PARAGRAPH.**

Mr. *Kendal* (*Travels*, vol. i. p. 31.) after quoting a *Connecticut* writer, who speaks of the *paragraphs* of one

of the laws of that state, makes this note upon the word :  
 “ By *paragraphs* is intended *sections* or *clauses* ”

**PARTLY.** Nearly, almost.

A friend informs me, that this word is thus used in some towns of the *Middle States*: “ His house is *partly* opposite, i. e. *nearly* opposite to mine.” Dr. Witherspoon has taken notice of this word, and gives the following example: “ It is *parly* all gone ; it is *mostly* all gone. This (he remarks) is an absurdity or barbarism, as well as a vulgarism.” *Druid*, No. 6.

**PASSAGE** for **PASSING.** *Used in speaking of laws.* *Ex.* “ Before the question was taken on the *passage* of the bill,” &c. *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 344, *et passim*.

This use of the word *passage* is now very common, in Congress and our other legislative assemblies, and has been adopted by many of our writers. It is criticised by the English Reviewers as an American innovation. See the *Annual Review*, art. *Marshall's Life of Washington*.

**TO PEAK** or **PEEK.** To peep.

A friend informs me, that this word is very common in the towns on the banks of the Connecticut ; but it is only used in conversation. The participle *peaking* also, he informs me, is used there for *sneaking*, as it is in *Shakspeare* : See *Johuson's Dict.* Mr. Webster has observed, that *peek* is “ used corruptedly for *peep*.” See his *Dissert. on the Eng. Lang.* p. 387.

**PECULIARS.** “ All *peculiars*, viz. such places as are not yet layd within the bounds of any town.” *Massachusetts Colony Laws* ; tit. **CHARGES PUBLICK** ; p. 15. edit. 1660.

This word is now so wholly obsolete with us, that I have heard even our lawyers ask the meaning of it.

**TO PEEK.** See *To Peak*.

**PENDING.**

In the review of *Marshall's Life of Washington* in the

*Monthly Anthology* (vol. v. p. 438.) this word is criticised as *obsolete*. But it is certainly used by the English in *legal* and *parliamentary* language; and it is, accordingly, to be found in the Reviews of works on those subjects: "At the period when the American treaty with this country was *pending*," &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. vi. p. 594.

PERK. "Lively, brisk, holding up the head." *Webst. Dict.*

This word is in *Johnson*, but is marked "*obsolete*." It is, however, *provincial* at this day, in England: "*Perk*; lively." *Specimens of the Essex Dialect*, in the *Monthly Magazine*, for July 1814, p. 498. It is used in the interior of *New England*; and is commonly pronounced *pearl*. (the *ea* as in *pear*) just as it is written in the passage which Dr. Johnson quotes from *Spencer*.

PIECES. Papers.

The *Edinburgh Reviewers*, in their account of the *American Mineralogical Journal*, (published at N. York in 1810, by A. Bruce) make the following remarks upon an article in that work written by Dr. Mitchell: "The two first words of it bespeak a foreign idiom, characterizing, as might be expected, the Anglo-American language in which this Journal is written. The author begins by saying, 'These *pieces* were collected during a tour in the summer of 1809;' and soon afterwards describing a specimen of black flint, he adds, 'such as abounds in the Seneca *prairies*.'" *Edinb. Rev.* Nov. 1810, p. 115.

This *Galicism* is not in common use here; but it has been adopted by some American, as it also appears to have been by some English writers: "I received this moment your letter.....with the enclosed *pieces* relative to the present dispute between the king and the parliament." *Chesterfield's Letters*, No. 244. An English friend makes



the following remarks on this word : “ We say in English, such a *piece* was inserted in a newspaper or magazine. But where an article is independently written and is of some length, even though it be inserted in a miscellaneous work (as the Philosophical Transactions) we call it a *paper*.” *A.*

**PINE-BARRENS.** *Used in the Southern States.* “ The road which I had to travel lay through a dreary and extensive forest of pine trees, or, as it is termed by the Carolinians, a *pine-barren*, where a habitation is seldom seen, except at intervals of ten or twelve miles.” *Lambert’s Travels*, vol. ii. p. 226.

**PLEAD or PLED for PLEADED.**

This is in constant use, in the *colloquial* language of the *Bar* in New England. But the verb *to plead* is a regular verb ; and in *England* the regular form *pleaded* seems to have been invariably used for centuries. “ He *pleaded* still not guilty.” *Shakspeare*, as cited by *Dr. Johnson*. It is also used in the Bible : “ There I will plead with you, face to face, like as I *pleaded* with your fathers in the wilderness.” *Ezek.* xx. 35, 36 ; and in various other places. “ Formerly the general issue was seldom *pleaded*—” “ Every defence which cannot be thus specially *pleaded*.” 3 *Blackst. Com.* 305.

This word is noticed as an “ inaccuracy ” in the *Monthly Anthology*, for Feb. 1808, p. 109 ; and as an *Americanism* in the *Port Folio*, for Oct. 1809. But it has also been used by some writers in Great Britain. The *British Critic* thus notices it in a review of *Annals of Great Britain*, published in 1807 : “ The author occasionally uses *pled* for *pleaded*, as the past tense of the verb *to plead* ; but we are not aware that there is such a word as *pled* in the English language.” *B. C.* vol. xxxvi. p. 343.

**PLENTY** for **PLENTIFUL**.

This is very common here, in the language of conversation ; and is sometimes to be met with in writing. Dr. Franklin uses it in his *Directions to make money plenty in every man's pocket* ; and the English reviewers in noticing that work, put the word *plenty* in Italics. See *Brit. Crit.* vol. iii. p. 285. Dr. Johnson says—"It is used, I think barbarously, for *plentiful*." And Ash calls it "rather colloquial." Dr. Campbell condemns it in the strongest terms : He says—*Plenty* for *plentiful* "appears to me so gross a vulgarity, that I should not have thought it worthy a place here, if I had not sometimes found it in works of considerable merit." *Philos. of Rhet.* B. ii. ch. 3. sect. 3. p. 251, *Amer. edit.*

**POKE.** A bag.

I have heard this old word used by some persons here in the compound term *cream-poke* ; that is, a small bag, through which cream is strained. In England, I presume, it is never used, except in the old proverb, which is familiar to every body in both countries

**POND.** "The soil and surface consists in a continuity of hills or downs of sandy loam with valleys and hollows that contain small streams, and lakes or pools, in New England always denominated *ponds*." *Kendal's Trav.* vol. ii. p. 59.

**POORLY.** *adj.* "Rather indisposed, indifferent, ill." *Webst. Dict.*

None of the English lexicographers, I believe, except Ash, mention *poorly* in this sense ; and he says it is "a colloquial word ;" which is also the case in this country. But a later English work gives it as a mere *provincial* word in England, peculiar to the North. "*Poorly*, indifferent in health. *Very poorly*, very indifferent. *North*." *Pegge's Supp. to Grose's Prov. Gloss.* London, 1814.

**POPULAR.** Used frequently by the illiterate for *populous*.

**POPULATED for PEOPLED.** “A thinly *populated* country.”

Very rarely used.

**PORTAGE.**

A *carrying place* by the banks of rivers, round waterfalls or *rapids*, &c. In this sense the word is very common, and has been thought to be necessary, in this country. In the following example it is used in a manner not common with American writers: “These reinforcements could not arrive with the necessary quantity of provisions and other supplies, because the river La Beauf ....did not admit of their *portage* down it.” *Mursh. Life of Wash.* vol. ii. p. 16.

**PRACTITIONAL.**

I have once met with this extraordinary word in the character of a deceased lawyer: “In his *practitionul* career he was,” &c. The word is entirely new.

**PRAIRIE.**

A French term, which has been much used of late by American writers, to designate those remarkable meadows or plains, which are described by travellers in Louisiana. Mr. Webster writes it *prairy*, and defines it “a natural meadow, or a plain naturally destitute of trees.” None of our writers, that I recollect, have adopted this orthography. The word *prairie* is censured by the Edinburgh reviewers, as a Gallicism. *See their remarks on the word* PIECES.

**PRAYERFUL; PRAYERFULLY.** *Ex.* In a *prayerful* manner; may we be *prayerfully* disposed.

This is used by some of our clergy; but it is not very common. It is not in any of the dictionaries.

**PRAYERLESS.** “Not praying, not using prayers.” *Webst. Dict.* I have never known this word to be used here; but a friend informs me, that he has often heard it in the

prayers of country clergymen, in this phrase—‘May there be no *prayerless* families in this place.’ The word is not in the dictionaries. *Whitfield* uses this, and *Christless*, and many other compounds of the same form.

**TO PREDICATE.** To found. “Being *predicated* on no previous proceedings of the legislature.” *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 408. “It ought surely to be *predicated* upon a full and impartial consideration of the whole subject.” *Letter of the Hon. J. Q. Adams*, p. 5.

Upon this last passage the Editor of the New York Evening Post remarks: “The *predicate* is that which is affirmed of the subject of a proposition; it is here used as synonymous with *founded*.”

This use of the verb *predicate* is very common with American writers, and in the debates of our legislative assemblies. “It is (says a friend) purely American.” *A. PRESIDENTIAL.* “Pertaining to a President.” *Webst.* This is mentioned by a writer in the Monthly Anthology as “one of the *barbarisms* in common use” among us. *English* writers have sometimes used it, but only in speaking of *American* affairs: “The friends of Washington had determined to support Mr. Adams as candidate for the *presidential* chair,” &c. *Quarterly Rev.* vol. x. p. 497; for Jan. 1814.

#### PROFANITY.

This word is in common use here; more particularly (as a clerical friend once observed to me) with our clergy. It is not in the dictionaries, and I do not recollect ever meeting with it in *English* authors. The *Scottish* writers, however, employ it; as will be seen by the following examples, which a friend has given me: “The man who can pass days in listening to folly and *profanity*,” &c. *McGill’s Considerations addressed to a young clergyman*; in “*Tracts on the Pastoral Office*,” p. 245. “The preaching of the gos-

pel administers a standing reproof to every species of *profanity* and criminality." *Institutes of Theology*, by Dr. Hill, Principal of St. Mary's College, in the University of St. Andrews.

English writers use the word *profaneness*: "A lilliputian history of England, in a parody of scripture, containing some inaccuracy. more drollery, and much more *profaneness*." *Brit. Crit.* vol. ix. p. 330. "Warburton, however, far surpasses his brother in brutality of invective; not to mention the peculiar demerit of using the most awful language of scripture with an irreverence, approaching to *profaneness*." *Quart. Rev.* vol. vii. p. 407. "And (if it were not a sort of *profaneness* to talk of the use as affecting the title to property) he makes a good use of his revenues." *Burke's Reflections*, p. 131, vol. iii, of his Works, Amer. edit. The word *profaneness* was also in use here, I think, till about the period of the Revolution.

**PROFESSOR of Religion.** See *Member of the Church*.

**TO PROGRESS.**

This obsolete English word, which (as I have been informed) was never heard among us before the Revolution, has had an extraordinary currency for the last twenty or thirty years, notwithstanding it has been condemned by the English, and by the best American writers. The use of it in Judge Marshall's *Life of Washington* has been censured by some of our own critics (see *Monthly Anthology* for August 1808); and a well known *English Review*, in noticing the same work, thus speaks of this verb: "We object to the continual use of the word *progress* as a verb; we are aware that authorities may be found for it in English writers, but such use had fortunately become obsolete till the American Revolution revived it." *Annual Rev.* vol. vii. p. 211. It is true that

some authorities may be found for it in English writers, and it is accordingly in *Johnson's* and other dictionaries; but *Johnson* has noted it as "*not used*." It seems also, that the accent was formerly placed on the *first* syllable, and not (as we pronounce it) on the *last*:

"Let me wipe off this honourable dew,  
That silverly doth *progress* on thy cheeks"

Dr. Franklin condemned the word many years ago. See *Note* on the word IMPROVE.

#### PROVEN *for* PROVED.

This is often heard in the debates of Congress, and is sometimes used by writers in the *Southern States*; but it is unknown in *New England*. "There is (says an English friend) much affectation in the use of the words *proven* and *stricken* among certain American writers and speakers. To labour, as some do, to raise old words from the dead, is not only not *tanti*; but it shews, that the persons who use these exertions do not consider, that if they are in any degree proper, they ought to be carried to a much greater extent than the parties seem to be aware of." *J.*

#### PROVINCIALISM.

This has been censured by some American writers as an unauthorized word. But it is in common use in England, though it is not to be found in the dictionaries. The English reviewers constantly use it.

#### PROXIES.

This word is thus noticed by Mr. *Keudal*, in his *Travels*, vol. i. p. 32.—"The written votes or ballots, which through a mistake, or else abuse of terms, the statutes occasionally call *proxies*." This use of the term *proxies* is not known, I believe, in any of the States, except *Rhode Island*, and *Connecticut*. It is also used sometimes as equivalent to *election*, or *election-day*. The follow-

ing instances are from a *Connecticut* newspaper: "Republicans of Connecticut; previous to every *proxies* you have been assaulted on every side"—"On the approaching *proxies* we ask you to attend universally," &c. The abbreviation *Prox* is also used in *Rhode Island*, for the *Ticket*; (as it is called elsewhere) that is, the *List* of Candidates at Elections.

#### PUBLISHMENT.

An official notification, made by the clerks of towns in New England, of an intended marriage. The term is in common use in most parts of New England, and is also adopted in some of our laws. "Any persons desiring to be joined in marriage shall have such their intentions published....or posted up by the clerk of such town; and a certificate of such *publishment*....shall be produced as aforesaid previous to their marriage." *Massachusetts Stat.* June 22, 1786. In England they use the expression *publication* of the banns: "Marriage must be preceded by *publication* of the banns." *Rees's Cyclop.* v. MARRIAGE.

**PUNK.** Rotten wood, touchwood, spunk.

A friend has mentioned this to me as one of our corruptions of the English language. The word is in common use in many, if not all parts of New England; but it is not to be found in this sense in the dictionaries. *Ash*, however, in the Supplement to his dictionary, has the following signification of it: "—A kind of *fungus*, often used for tinder;" but Bailey gives this meaning to the word *spunk*. Mr. Webster has *spunk*.

**To QUACKLE.** To almost choke, or suffocate.

A low, colloquial word, which is sometimes heard in New England. In *England*, it is *provincial*: "To *quackle*, to suffocate." *Essex Dialect*, in the *Monthly Magazine*, vol. xxxviii. p. 498; for July 1811. "Quack-

led, almost choked or suffocated. Norfolk and Suffolk.”  
*Pegge's Supplem. to Grose.*

QUARREL. A pane of glass.

This old word is still sometimes heard in New England; but only among the illiterate. It is thus noticed in the *Monthly Magazine* (vol. xxxviii. p. 332) as an English *provincialism*: “Quarrel. s. A square of window glass; *quarré* [rather *quarreau*, now written *carreau*] French.”

RACKETS. (*Used in the plural.*) A common name in some parts of New England, for what in other parts are called *snow-shoes*. They have this name, without doubt, from their resemblance to the rackets used in playing tennis.

RAFTY. Rancid; damp and musty.

I have heard this word used by old people in New England. It is *provincial* in England: “*Rafty*; damp and musty, as corn or hay in a wet season.” *Marshall's Rural Econ. of Norfolk.*

TO RAISE.

In New England the farmers say, *to raise* corn, wheat, &c.; but in England, at the present day, the farmers and even the agricultural *writers* say, *to grow* corn &c. and this expression is now getting into use here. This verb, indeed, and its noun *growers* (though, according to *Rees's Cyclopædia*, the latter is a term “*provincially* applied to farmers”) seem to be a part of the *technical* language of agriculturists. Dr. Johnson calls *grow* a verb *neuter*; and his twenty-first signification of *to raise* is, “to procure to be bred or propagated.” One of his examples is, “he *raised* wheat where none grew before.” *Ash*, whose dictionary is the only one in which I find *to grow* as a verb *active*, says, it “is a *colloquial* word;” but, at the present day, it is certainly used by the agricultural *writers* of England. Dr. Witherspoon, many



years ago, ranked this use of *to grow* among “the newest corruptions of the language, and much more common in England than America ;” and he cites *Cook’s first voyage, by Hawkesworth*, where (he adds) “some others of the same kind are to be found.” *Druid*, No. 6. A learned friend observes—“The licences in language, common among the English agriculturists, seem to be partly owing to the proprietor and the literary man giving ear to the phrases of agents, farmers and labourers ; and then transferring them to books : Whence we read of *to grow* for *to cause to grow*. In addition to the corruptions forced upon the mind of the English agricultural writers by their familiarity with practical agriculturists, these frequently adopt the style of *journals* ; and though journals may easily be made (with care) to assume a correct form, yet whether framed by agriculturists, medical writers, or nautical men, they too often appear in a form which is needlessly uncouth.” *A.* See also the remark of the same friend, on the style of the English agricultural writers under the word *ONTO*.

2. In some of the *Southern States* they also use the verb *to raise* in this manner : I was *raised*, i. e. *brought up*, in such a town. It is never thus used in the *Northern States*.

3. *To raise* (as an English friend first remarked to me) is also very much used in some of the *Southern States*, instead of *to rise*. He observes, in a letter from *Philadelphia*—“Of the gentlemen who are my fellow boarders at least one half use the verb *raise* as a neuter ; as we in New England do the verb *fall* as an active. *Ex.* Tobacco and cotton will *raise*.” He has also referred me to the following passage of a well known work, the author of which learned his English chiefly among the people of *Pennsylvania* : “Although the deferred stork is every

day raising in value," &c. *Sketches of the Finances of the U. States, by Albert Gallatin Esq.* p. 121, note (B.)

4. This verb is also much used in our legislative assemblies in the following manner: A member moves, that a committee should be *raised* to take any particular subject into consideration; and a committee is accordingly *raised*. The *English* say, in parliamentary language, a committee was *formed* or *appointed*: "Earl Liverpool moved that a committee of twenty-one Peers be *appointed* by ballot to examine the Physicians on the state of His Majesty's health," &c. *Debates in Parliament, Jan. 9, 1812.* "The usual committees were *formed*." *Report of Debates, in the London newspapers.*

**RAPIDS.** (*Used in the plural.*) "A part of a river where the water is rapid over a moderate descent." *Webst. Dict.*

The following description of the *rapids* of the river Ohio will further explain the term: "They are occasioned by a ledge of rocks that stretch across the bed of the river, from one side to the other, in some places projecting so much that they are visible when the water is not high, and in most places when the water is extremely low. The fall is not more than between four and five feet in the distance of a mile," &c. *Inlay's Topograph. Descript. of the Western Territory of the U. States*, p. 51, 2d edit.

**RAW SALAD.** Dr Witherspoon makes the following remarks on this expression: "*Raw salad* is used in the South for *salad*. N. B. 'There is no salad boiled.'" *Druid*, No. 7. Hence, as a correspondent observes, Johnson defines a salad—"food of raw herbs." I do not know whether this expression is common in the *Southern States* at the present day, or not. In *New England* I have never heard it.

**To REALIZE.**

“The clergy of New England (says a friend) employ this word, when a thing is spoken of as made certain, or substantial; a sense not frequent among the modern English.” *A.* A learned clerical friend has reminded me, that it is used in this manner by *Alison*, the well known *Scottish* author.

**RECIPROCITY.**

This word has been remarked upon, by some of our writers, as “hardly admissible.” See *Month. Anthol.* for 1806, p. 102. It is not noticed by any of the lexicographers except *Walker* and *Mason*; the latter of whom cites a *law* authority in support of it: “Any degree of *reciprocity* will prevent the pact from being nude. *Blackstone*.” But it is in general use with other *English* writers; perhaps, however, it is more commonly employed by them in political and other discussions, which admit of a language approaching to the *legal* style. It is often used by them in *diplomatic* papers. *Walker* has inserted it in his dictionary, without informing the reader that it is a new word, as he usually does in such cases.

**To RECKON.** Used in some of the *Southern* States, as *guess* is in the *Northern*. *Ex.* I reckon he will, &c. It seems to be *provincial* in England: “*Reckon*, to imagine, to suppose: I reckon I shall. *North*.” *Pegge’s Supplem. to Grose*.

**REDEMPTIONER.** “One who redeems himself by services, or whose services are sold to pay certain expenses.” *Webst. Dict.*

This name is given, in the *Southern* States, to those Germans, Irish, and other Europeans, who emigrate from their own country to the United States, and sell their services for a term of time to pay their passage-money and other expenses.

## REFERENCE.

The frequent use of this word in the following manner is noticed, by a late English traveller, among the "quaint expressions," peculiar to Americans: "Has the embargo act *progressed* in Congress? Which have you *reference* to?" *Lambert's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 506. An English friend, however, says—"If Mr. Lambert considers this use of the word *reference* as confined to America, he is in an error. It is a word in well established use in England." *A.*

## RELEASEMENT.

The use of this word in *Bancroft's Life of Washington* is censured by some of the English reviewers. See *British Critic*, vol. xxxv. p. 182. It is very rarely used by American writers. I do not find it in any of the English dictionaries except *Bailey's* and *Ash's*; and it is unquestionably obsolete. I never met with it in any work printed in England, except once accidentally in the *Index* to *Smollet's History of England* (London edition of 1796) in this article: "Murray Hon. Alexander—procession at his *releasement* from Newgate."

RELISHES. "About eight or nine in the morning they breakfast on tea and coffee, attended always with what they call *relishes*, such as salt-fish, beef-steaks, sausages, broiled fowls, ham, bacon, &c. *Priest's Travels in the U. States of America*."

To RELOAN. "To lend a second time." *Webst. Dict.* See *To Loan*.

To RELUCT.

The use of this verb in *Bancroft's Life of Washington* is censured by a reviewer in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iv. p. 666. Most of the dictionaries have it; but (as a friend observes) it is never used "by good English writers." *A.* I may add, that it does not frequently occur in the writings of Americans.

**REMOVABILITY.** “The capacity of being removed or displaced.” *Webst. Dict.*

See the remarks on the word *Irrepealability*.

**REMOVE.** “At an infinite remove.” *First Ripe Fruits; being a collection of Tracts, &c. by the Rev. John Mason, New York, 1803.*

Some of the English reviewers mention this expression as one of the “occasional vulgarisms, possibly Anglo-Americanisms,” of Dr. Mason’s work. See the *Christian Observer*, vol. ii. p. 564. The noun *remove* is not an “Anglo-Americanism.” It is sometimes used by English writers of celebrity: “Such a procedure is scarcely a *remove* short of pious fraud.” *Porson’s Letters to Travis, preface, p. 25.*

**RENEWEDLY.** Anew; again.

This adverb is often heard from our pulpits. But (as a correspondent observes) it is “a word destitute of all authority.” *A.*

**REQUIREMENT.**

American writers sometimes employ this term; but it is not in general use. I do not find it in any of the English dictionaries except *Bailey’s, folio* edition. A correspondent says, “it does not rank as a good English word.” *A.*

**REPETITIOUS.** “The observation which you have quoted from the Abbé Raynal, which has been written off in a succession not much less *repetitious*, or protracted, than that in which school-boys of former times wrote,” &c. *Remarks on the Review of Inchiquin’s Letters in the Quarterly Review; Boston, 1815.*

This word is peculiar to the writer here quoted.

**RESEMBLAGE.**

Some of the English reviewers of *Marshall’s Life of Washington* have noticed this word as an instance of the

“ incorrect language ” of that work ; the reviewers considering it as the *American* term for *re-assemblage*. See *Annual Review*, vol. vii. p. 241. But they have in this, and in several other instances, been misled by the incorrectness of the *English* editions of Judge Marshall’s work : In the place referred to, the *American* edition has *re-assemblage* ; which is the substitute proposed by the reviewers. See Note on the word *Infected*.

**RESULT. n.** A technical name for the *Decisions* of Ecclesiastical Councils. *New England*.

**To RESULT.** (*From the preceding noun.*) To decide or decree, as an Ecclesiastical Council.

Some of our writers on ecclesiastical affairs constantly use this verb, in speaking of our own Councils, thus : “ The Council *resulted* that the parties should do certain things.” A friend has reminded me of the following instance of its being applied also to the Decrees of the *ancient* Councils : “ According to Dr. Milner, the Council of Nice *resulted*, in opposition to the views of Arius, that the Son was peculiarly of the Father,” &c. *Bible News*, by the Rev. Noah Worcester, p. 176, 2d edit.

#### RETORTIVE.

This is noticed as “ a new word,” in an American review of *Mr. Barlow’s Columbiad*. See *Month. Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 117. I presume no other American author ever used it.\*

**To RETROSPECT.** *Ex.* “ To give a correct idea of the cir-

\* Mr. Barlow has used a great number of words, which no other American writer, probably, would have ventured to employ. Many of them have been condemned by the *Edinburgh Review* (vol. xv. p. 28) and by almost every one of Mr. Barlow’s own countrymen. As the use of these words may, with the strictest propriety, be said to be peculiar to Mr. B. and as they will never, probably, be adopted by any other writer, I have thought it unnecessary to enumerate them.

cumstances which have gradually produced this conviction, it may be useful *to retrospect* to an early period." *Letter from Alex. Hamilton concerning the public conduct and character of John Adams Esq.* p. 4.

An American reviewer thus defends the use of this new verb in the work here cited: "A celebrated Letter published here last autumn contained some words used as *verbs*, which the English have hitherto used only as *nouns*; such as *advocate*, *retrospect*: But they were expressive of a circumlocution, and are agreeable to the ear; and why may they not be deemed of as high authority, as if originating with Mr. Pitt or Mr. Erskine?" *American Review and Literary Journal*, vol. i. p. 220, note; *New York*, 1801.

The use of this same verb *to retrospect* (in an active sense) had been attempted in Great Britain, a few years before the date of the publication above quoted; but it received no favour. A well known English Review thus notices it, in connexion with another new word: "Expressions like the following cannot be admitted as improvements of our language—to *irradicate* selfish ideas—to *retrospect* his past conduct." *Brit. Crit.* vol. vii. p. 552; review of *The Haunted Cavern, a Caledonian Tale.* By John Palmer, jun. London, 1796.

**To REVOLT.** *Ex.* "The spirit of retreat, of devotion, and of the heavenly-mindedness, which the gospel enjoins, *revolts* those whose hopes and enjoyments centre only in the world." *Sermons by S. Stanhope Smith*, p. 8. "They find doctrines in the Gospel that *revolt* their reason," &c. p. 11.

This use of the verb *revolt* is condemned by a reviewer of these *Sermons*, in the *New York Monthly Magazine and American Review*, vol. i. p. 362; for the year 1800. It has also been discountenanced in England; where (as

in this country) a few individuals have adopted it. An English Review thus notices it: "In p. 34, occurs this phrase; 'however it may at first *revolt* us;' to *revolt* cannot properly be used as an *active* verb. In all good writers it is neuter, or intransitive." *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 333; review of *Boscawen's Horace*.

#### RIVER.

An observing friend (who has been particularly engaged in geographical inquiries) first remarked to me, that in speaking of rivers, Americans commonly put the name before the word *River*, thus: Connecticut *river*, Charles *river*, Merrimack *river*; whereas the English would place the name after it, and say, the *river* Charles &c. And when English writers copy from our geographers, they commonly make this alteration; as will be seen by referring to any of the English *Gazetteers*. There are exceptions, however, to this practice; as, when we speak of some of the largest rivers. We say, for instance, the *river* Mississippi; the *river* St. Lawrence, &c.

#### ROCK for STONE.

In *New England*, we often hear the expression of *heaving rocks*, for *throwing stones*.

To ROIL. (Commonly pronounced *Rile*.) "To render turbid by stirring up lees; to disturb the mind and excite anger." *Webst. Dict. (New England)*

In the *first* of these significations, this word is in common use, in the language of conversation; but in the *second* sense it is only heard among the vulgar. In this sense it is also *provincial* in Great Britain: "*Roil* or *royle*; to perplex, fatigue. *North*." *Grose*. "To *Rile*, to vex." *Essex Dialect*, in the *Monthly Magazine*, for *March*, 1815, p. 125. It is not in the dictionaries.

ROILY. Turbid.



**ROMANTICALLY.**

This is ridiculed, in the *Monthly Anthology* (vol iii. p. 92.) as “an Indianism.” It is not in use. I have, in one instance, met with the still more extraordinary word *romanticity*.

**RUGGED.** Hardy, robust. *New England*.

Englishmen notice our use of *rugged*, in this sense, as a peculiarity ; in expressions of this kind—A *rugged*, i. e. robust child ; *rugged* health.

**RUN.** *n.* “A small stream.” *Webst. Dict.* (*New England*.)

This is sometimes used in conversation ; but not in writing. The English dictionaries do not give this sense of the word : Most of them, however, have *Runnel*, which Johnson defines “a rivulet, a small brook ;” but Walker says it is “little used.” It may be added, that in *America*, it is never used.

**RUNGS.** *n.* *plural*.

A very common name in New England for the *rounds* or steps of a ladder. *Grose* mentions it as a *provincial* word of the *North* of England ; and *Ash* also gives it as “a local word.” The braces or *rounds* of common chairs are also vulgarly called *rungs*. This has generally been considered as a mere corruption of *rounds* ; and people of education use only this latter word.

**SABBATH.** “On Sunday, or, as it is here [in *New England*] uniformly denominated, on *Sabbath*, I accompanied an entire family to church.” *Kendal's Trav.* vol. i. p. 115.

**To SAG.** To sink, or settle.

An English friend has pointed out the use of this old word, as one of our peculiarities. It is in the dictionaries ; but *Sheridan* and *Walker* say “it is not in use.” It is used here in *Johnson's* first signification of *to swag*, that is, “to sink down by its weight ;” and it has, I think, been

generally considered as a mere corruption of that word. In England it is used, *provincially*, in speaking of the health of a person : He begins to *sag*, i. e. to decline in his health. *Norfolk and Suff. Pegge's Supplement to Grose.*

**SALAD.** See *Raw Salad*.

**SALT LICK.** See *Lick*.

**SAMP.** "Maize broken coarse, boiled and mixed with milk," &c. *Webst. Dict.* An *Indian* word.

**SAPPY.** "Full of sap, *jucy*,\* young, *simple*." *Webst. Dict.*

An American reviewer of Mr. Webster's dictionary observes—"We never saw this word but once used in this *last* sense." *Monthly Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 263. Mr. Webster, however, in admitting this signification of the word, has only followed *Entick's* dictionary, of which his own is "an enlargement and improvement."† The same signification of the word is also given in *Perry's* and *Dyche's* dictionaries ; but I have not found it in any other. It is universally considered here as a low word, in this sense, and is not very often used even in the language of conversation.

**SAT for SET.** *Ex.* "I *sat* out yesterday morning, for I *set* out."

This impropriety is not, as some have supposed, peculiar to this country. Bishop *Lorath*, in commenting on the use of these two verbs in *English* works, observes, that "*set* can be no part of the verb *to sit* ;" (see his *Grammar, Irreg. Verbs*) and Dr. *Witherspoon* classes the example above given, among his "*Vulgarisms of England and America*." *Druid*, No. 6. I do not, however, recollect seeing *sat* ever used for *set* in any *English* publications of the present day ; not even in the newspapers. In *America* this error is much less common now than it formerly was ; for though it is

\* Mr. Webster's orthography.

† See *Preface* to Mr. Webster's Dictionary, p. xix.

still heard in conversation, it is not often to be met with in writing.

#### SAUCE.

A *general term* among the country people of New England, for all the common esculent vegetables. Hence those farmers, who supply the markets with vegetables, are sometimes called by their brethren, *sauce-marketers*. The term *sauce* is sometimes used “more strangely (to adopt the words of an English friend) to signify *impertinence*.” *B.* In some parts of *England* (as the same friend informs me) the term *garden-stuff* is used as a general name for vegetables, and *Ash* accordingly has that term ; the other English lexicographers have *garden-ware*.

#### SCANTY.

This word is in common use in New England, and is to be found in all the dictionaries ; but is noted by Mr. *Pegge* as *provincial* in England—“*Scanty*, short, in want of : This is a *scanty* pattern. We are rather *scant* of it at present. *North.*” *Pegge’s Supplem. to Grose’s Prov. Gloss.* It is used here in conversation only.

**Scow.** “A large flat-bottomed boat.” *Webst. Dict.*

In some parts of the United States it is called a *gondola* (*which see.*) The word *scow*, says another American writer, is properly an American word, made from necessity to signify a *small* flat-bottomed boat, which is used only in America, and is just as good a word, as the *track schuyts* of the Dutch. *Port Folio, New Series*, vol. vii. p. 328.\* A friend remarks, that “the word *Scow* is, perhaps, a corruption among the *Dutch* settlers in New York for *Schuyt*.” *A.*

**SEA-BORD or SEA-BOARD.** “Towards the sea.” *Bailey.*

\* Mr. Webster’s definition agrees best with the *scows* or *gondolas* of the *Northern* states ; which are strong-built, heavy boats, about 30 feet long and 12 feet wide.

This nautical term is often heard in conversation, and is sometimes used in writing. I do not find it in any of the English dictionaries except *Bailey's*, *Ash's*, and *Mason's Supplement to Johnson* ; and it is doubtless out of use in England, except among sea-faring people. There is some difference of opinion among the lexicographers, as to the *orthography* of this term, and what *part of speech* it is. *Bailey* writes the last syllable of it *with an a*, *Sea-board*. *Ash* copies *Bailey's* orthography, as well as his definition, and calls it an *adverb*. *Mason* writes it without the *a*, *Sea-bord*, and calls it an *adjective* : His authority is *Spencer* ; who, however, according to *Horne Tooke*, is one of “ the worst possible authorities for English words : ”—

“ **SEA-BORD.** *adj.* Bordering on the sea.

There shall a lion from the *sea-bord* wood  
Of Neustria come roring.

*Sp. P. Q. B.* III. c. iii. st. 47.

The watry South-winde from the *seabord* coste  
Up-blowing doth disperse the vapour loste.

*Ib.* c. iv. st. 13.”

*Mr. Webster* has it as an *adjective* (adopting *Mason's* definition,) and also as a *noun*, which he defines—“ the shore or edge of the sea.” He writes it *Sea-bord*.

The term *Land-board* I have never met with in any instance but the following, either in writing or conversation : “ The position and circumstances of the United States leave them nothing to fear on their *land-board*, and nothing to desire beyond their present rights. But on their *sea-board* they are open to injury,” &c. *Report of the Secretary of State* (Mr. Jefferson) *on Commercial Restrictions* &c. Dec. 16, 1793.

#### SECTION.

Since the French Revolution this word has been much used here instead of *part*, *quarter*, &c. *Ex.* “ In this *section* of the United States.” It is not thus used in England.

**SECTIONARY.** (*From the preceding noun*). Belonging to a section of a country ; local.

I have never met with this uncommon word except in the following instance : “ This veneration arises not from a little and selfish spirit of *sectionary* attachment.” I have once also met with *sectional*, in the same sense.

**SEE** for **SAW**, (*preterite of to see.*) *New England* “ I see him yesterday, or see him last week ; for I saw him. In Scotland the vulgar say, I seed him last week.” *Withersp. Druid*, No. 6.

*See'd* also (as Mr. Pegge observes) “ passes currently with the common people of London, both for our perfect tense *saw*, and our participle passive *seen*.” *Anecdotes of the English language*, p. 111, 2d edit. The corrupt form *see* (for *saw*) is never used here except in the language of conversation ; and at the present day is only heard among the illiterate. An English friend makes the following remarks on it : “ *See* and *Shew*, in the preterite, have a very unpleasant effect on the ears of an Englishman ; and are each utterly unknown to English authors. Whoever has adopted these corruptions will do well to abandon them ; as setting a mark upon the persons using them ; both in the Middle and Southern States of this continent, and throughout the whole of the British Dominions.” *A*.

**SERIOUS.**

“ *Serious*, has [in New England] the cant acceptance of religious.” *Kendal's Trav.* vol. i. p. 523. *not*.

**SEWENT.** See *Suant*.

**SHAN'T.** See *An't*.

**SHAW** for **SHAWED** or **SHOWED.** *Ex.* “ I shew it to him yesterday.”

Several years ago this corrupt preterite was very common in *New England* ; but it is now much less used than formerly. Mr. Pegge, in his ironical defence of *know'd* for

*knew*, mentions the following singular instances of irregular preterites of verbs ending in *ew* or *ow* : “ The modern past tense, *I knew*, seems to have been imported from the North of England, where the expressions are—‘ *I sew*, (instead of *I sow’d*) my corn :’—‘ *I mow* (that is, *I mow’d*) my hay :’—and, ‘ it *snew*,’ for it *snow’d*. To the first and second of these words I have been an ear witness ; and as to the last, the writer of the Fragment at the end of Spratt’s Chronicle (who probably was a Yorkshireman) speaking of the battle of Towton, says—‘ and all the season it *snew*.’ Dr. Wallis, a Kentish man, who lived in the last century, admits *knew* to be an imperfect preterite, together with *snew* and many others.” *Anecdotes of the Eng. Lang.* p. 107.

NOTE. A young hog. *New England* ; and some of the *Southern States*.

This is a provincial word in England. Ray in his *South and East Country Words*, under the word *Sheat* says, “ A *Sheat*, a young hog : *Suffolk*. In *Essex* they call it a *Shote* ; both from *Shoot*.” We sometimes hear it applied in America to *man*, in this expression—He is a poor *shote* ; i. e. a sorry fellow.

SIR.

The words *Sir* and *Ma’am* are used in some parts of New England for *Father* and *Mother*, and for *Master* and *Mistress*. But they are not so common now as they were some years ago. At our colleges also, the *Bachelors* of Arts have the appellation of *Sir*, as they have in the English Universities.

SIRS (*pl. of SIR*.) One or two attempts have lately been made in this country to revive this antiquated plural ; but they have been unsuccessful.

To **SLAM**; *used in this expression* : To *slam* to a door ; that is, to shut it with violence.

The common use of this low word is sometimes noticed by Englishmen, who visit this country. It is not, however, peculiar to America ; but in England, (according to *Grose*) it is a *provincialism*. I do not find this use of it in any of the dictionaries, except *Ash's*, *Barclay's*, *Perry's*, and *Entick's*. *Ash*, however, in his Supplement, does not note it as *local*, or *provincial*, but only as “ a colloquial word.” Mr. Webster adopts *Entick's* explanation of it. English writers sometimes put it into the mouths of low characters in plays and novels.

#### SLANG-WHANGER.

The *Monthly Reviewers*, in their account of the *English* edition of the well known American work, called *Salmagundi*, have the following remarks on this term : “ When, for instance, he [the editor] tells us that ‘ *Caucus*’ (an assembly) is the only *American* word that he has found in these volumes, he evidently forgets the favourite compound term ‘ *slang-whanger*’ (a newspaper-writer), which occurs in almost every page ; and indeed many more vulgarisms, or at best *provincialisms*, which we forbear to mention, but hope we may not see repeated in similar compositions,” &c. *Month. Rev.* vol. lxx. p. 429.

This word, which is of very recent origin in America, does not denote merely a “ *writer* ;” it means also a noisy *talker*, who makes use of that sort of political or other cant, which amuses the rabble, and is called by the vulgar name of *slang*. It is hardly necessary to add, that this term (as well as *slang-whanging*) is never admitted into the higher kinds of writing ; but, like other cant words, is confined to that familiar style, which is allowed only in works of humour.

**To SLAT.** To throw down with violence, to dash against.  
*Exc.* "He *slat* the book down upon the floor." *A low word*: used only in conversation.

It is an English *provincialism*, and is not in the dictionaries. *Ray* has it among his *North Country Words* thus: "To *slat* on, to leek on, (pour on) to cast on, or dash against. *Vox ονομαστον.*" *Mason* adopts it from *Ray*, and adds an authority: "To *slat*, *v. a.* to dash. *Slatted* his brains out, then soused him in the briny sea. *Marston's Malcon.*" Those persons, who use it here, do not make the preterite *slatted*, but *slat*. It is not in Mr. *Webster's* dictionary.

**SLED.** See *Sleigh*.

**SLEIGH.** A carriage for travelling on snow.

Mr. *Kendal*, after mentioning this word in his *Travels* (vol. iii. p. 419) has this note upon it: "A *local* name for *sledge*, learned of the Dutch colonists." Mr. *Webster* writes it *Sley*; and a reviewer of his dictionary has the following remark on it: "*Sley*, being a vehicle in common use with us, and unknown in England, has a claim, we confess, to a place in an English dictionary; but we insert it here to remark, that we have commonly, we believe always, seen it spelled *sleigh*." *Month. Anthol.* vol. v. p. 429. In New England, as a friend observes, *sleigh* is a word applied to *light* carriages used in winter; and *sled* to carriages used at that season for *heavy articles*. "*Sledge* (he adds) is the word used by the English in both cases." *A.*

**SLICE.** A large kind of kitchen fire-shovel. *New England.*

A friend has referred me to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. lxiii. p. 4084, where this is said to be used in Bristol, in *England*. It is also mentioned by Mr. *Pegge*: "Slice, a fire-shovel. Bristol. So an *Egg-slice*." *Supplem. to Grose.*



**SLIM.** Ordinary, mean. *A low word.*

*Ray* has *slim*, among his *North Country Words*; but says, that “its a word generally used [in Lincolnshire] in the same sense with *sly*.” *Johnson* says, that even in its usual sense (i. e. *slender*) it is “a cant word, as it seems, and therefore, not to be used.” But *Mason* is of opinion that “*Addison*’s using it may be deemed a sufficient reply to the supposition of its being *cant*.” This, however, (it need hardly be remarked) would depend upon the circumstances, under which it was used by *Addison*.

**SLOSH or SLUSH.** (*The first orthography is conformable to the pronunciation*). *A low word.*

This term, and its derivative *sloshy*, (or *slushy*) are often used by the people of New England, in speaking of the state of the roads, when they are covered with snow and a thaw takes place. It is very common to hear people say—The roads are *sloshy*; it is very *sloshy* going, &c. None of the English dictionaries have this word; but all of them, I believe, except *Bailey*’s, have the term *Sludge*, and define it as *Dr. Johnson* does—“Mire, dirt mixed with water.” *Grose* has *sludge* in the same sense, as a provincial term, peculiar to the North of England. (*Prov. Gloss.*) *Marshall* also has *sludge* among his provincialisms of the *Midland Counties*; *sluss*, among those of *Norfolk*, and *slush* among those of *Forkshire*; and he defines them all nearly in the same words. *Mr. Webster* has *sludge*, but not *slush* or *slosh*. “In some parts of New England (says a friend) the word *parush* is used for wet snow; not only by land, but when the snow is floating on the surface of the water.” I never heard this term used.

**SLOSHY or SLUSHY.** See *Slosh*.

**To SLUMP.** “To sink or fall into water or mud, through ice or other hard surface. *New England.*” *Webst. Dict.*  
A colloquial word.

“ This word (says a reviewer of Mr. Webster’s dictionary) is certainly unworthy of a place in such a work.” *Monthly Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 264. It is an English provincialism : “ To *slump* ; to slip or fall *plum* down in any wet or dirty place.” *Ray’s North Country Words*. This author has it also, with the same explanation, among his *South and East Country Words* ; where he observes, that “ it seems to be a word made *per onomatopœian* from the sound.” *Grose* copies *Ray*, but considers the word *slump* as peculiar to the *North Country*, and says, that “ in the *South*, *slump* is used in that sense.” *Prov. Gloss.* The word *slump* is in *Bailey’s* dictionary (where it is marked as a *North Country* word), but it is omitted by *Johnson* and the other modern lexicographers, except *Ash*, who has it with this remark, that it is “ a *local* word.” It is mentioned in a late English work among Specimens of the *Essex* dialect : “ *Slump*—to slip or fall into the dirt.” *Month. Mag. for July 1814*, p. 498.

SLUSH. See *Slosh*.

#### SOCIAL.

“ In Franklin Place, apartments are occupied by the Boston *Social Library*,” &c. By *social* is here intended *society* ; for by a perversion of language the *Society-libraries*, of which some account has been given in a former chapter, are so called.” *Kendal’s Travels*.

#### SOCIETY.

Mr. *Kendal* has the following remarks upon the use of this word in the State of *Connecticut* : “ I have used the words *society* and *church* [See *Member of the Church*] in senses new to most English readers...A *society* is a community or corporation established, for the most part, for the twofold object of religious worship and common schooling ; but in some instances, for religious worship only .... Sometimes a town composes *one* society, sometimes

it includes *two or more* .... So far the arrangements suppose *uniformity* of religious opinions ; but if these jar, then the *society*, as to *church arrangements*, has no reference to *territorial* subdivision. Two or three societies may subsist in the same town ; and while one neighbour belongs to one, the next may belong to a second. In like manner a *society* may be composed of portions of the inhabitants of two, three, or four towns, who, severally disagreeing with their immediate neighbours, unite themselves with each other ; but, however societies may be constituted, as to matters of *religious worship*, the second object, that of *common schooling*, is always of a local nature ; and towns, therefore, uniformly consist of one or more *societies* considered as distinct." *Kendal's Trav.* vol. i. p. 106.

In most parts of New England, however, the term *society* is not applied to those communities or districts, which are established for the purpose of maintaining *schools* ; they are commonly called *school-districts*.

**TO SOLEMNIZE.** To make solemn, or serious.

This is frequently heard from our pulpits. It is not explained in this sense in the English dictionaries, but is sometimes to be found in English authors. An obliging friend has given me the following example : " It seems to have a good effect in *solemnizing* the minds of the hearers." *Letter of Lindsey*, quoted in *Belsham's Life of that Writer*, p. 113, *not*.

**SOLITARY.** Rare.

A learned correspondent observes, that *solitary* in this sense is " used by one very respectable American writer, in expressions of this kind : " A solitary event."

**SOME.** Somewhat, something. *Ex.* He is *some* better than he was ; it rains *some* ; it snows *some*, &c. Used chiefly by the illiterate. *New England*.

This is not so much used in the *sea-ports*, as in the *country*

towns, of *New England*. It is also a *Scollicism*: “*Some* is very often used in the *North* for somewhat or something: as, He is *some* better.” *Monthly Mag. for May* 1800. p. 323.

**SPAKE.** (Preterite of *speak*).

This antiquated word is sometimes heard from the *pulpit*: and I have in one or two instances heard it in *conversation*: but it is always remarked upon as a singularity. This, and the old preterites *sang*, *sprang*, *forgat*, &c. (as Mr. Webster justly observes) “are entirely obsolete in *ordinary practice*, whether popular or polite; and it seems advisable not to attempt to revive them. In addition to this reason for omitting them (he adds) there is one, which is not generally understood. The sound of *a* in these and all other like cases was originally the broad *a* or *aw*; which sound in the Gothic and Saxon, as in modern Scotch, corresponded nearly with *o* in *spoke*, *swore*. *Spoke* is therefore nearer to the original than *spake*, as we now pronounce the vowel *a* with its first or long sound, as in *sake*.” *Philosoph. and Practical Grammar*, p. 117. *not*.

**SPAN.** A pair. Used in this expression: A *span* of horses. *New England*.

I do not find this use of the word in any of the *English dictionaries*, nor in *Ray's* or *Grose's* Glossaries. The Germans say, a *span* or *Gespann oxen oder pferde*; a *team* (not exclusively *one pair*) of oxen or horses. From *span* we have, in some parts of *New England*, the term *span-shackle* (or *draft-iron*) of a cart or plough.

**SPELL.**

“A *spell* of sickness, a long *spell*, a bad *spell*. Perhaps this word is borrowed from the sea dialect.” *Withersp. Druid*, No. 6; where the author is speaking of the “*Vulgarisms of America*.”

**SPILE.** “A peg or pin to stop a hole in a cask.” *Webst. Dict.*

An English friend observes, that this word “is used here for a *spigot* ; and, vulgarly for a *pile*.” *B.* The dictionaries have not *spile* but *spill* ; and under the latter word. Dr. Johnson gives this example : “Have near the bung-hole a little vent-hole, stopped with a *spill*. *Mortimer*.”

**SPEIGH or SPRY.** “Nimble, brisk, quick in action.” *Webst. Dict.* (*Mr. Webster adopts the latter orthography.*) *New England.*

This word is very common in *conversation*. A reviewer of Mr. Webster's dictionary observes, that it “is a word which has neither use nor dignity.” *Month. Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 264.

I do not find it in any of the English dictionaries ; but a friend informs me, that it is used “by the common people in *Somersetshire*,” in England; and *Grose* has a word which possibly is the same, though with a different orthography : “*Sproil* ; lively, active. *West* [of England].” *Prov. Gloss.* Under this word he refers to the word *Stroil*, which, he says, in the *Eæmore* dialect, means “strength and agility.”

#### **SPRINGY.**

An English friend remarks, that this word is “much used here by the vulgar for *active* or *agile* : He is a *springy* man.” *B.* It is in the dictionaries in the sense of *elastic*.

#### **SPUNK.**

This is frequently used here, by the vulgar, to denote *spirit* or *courage* ; and the same class of people use it in *England* ; but probably it is not so common there as here. *Walker* says, it is “used in *Scotland* for animation, quick sensibility.”

**To SQUALE.** To throw a stick, or other thing, with violence and in such a manner, that it skims along near the ground. *New England.*

It is *provincial* in England : “To *squale* ; to throw a stick, as at a cock. *West* [of England].” *Grose’s Prov. Gloss.* In the *West* country (Grose observes) it is also pronounced *scale* ; and in Norfolk *cail*.

*To SQUAT.* To squeeze or press. *Ex.* The boy has *squat* his finger. Used by the vulgar in *New England*. This is an English *provincial* word : “To *squat* ; to bruise or make flat by letting fall. *South.*” *Grose’s Prov. Gloss.* The dictionaries have *to squash*, in the same sense.

#### SQUATTERS.

A *cant* name in New England for those people, who enter upon new lands and cultivate them without permission of the owners. “The large proprietor.....upon visiting his lands, finds his timber cut down and sold, and crops growing, houses built, and possession taken by a race of men (the settlers and *lumberers*) who, in this view, are called *squatters*.” *Kendal’s Trav.* vol. iii. p. 160.

*SQUAW.* An *Indian* woman.

“The men make the poor *squaws*, their wives, do all the drudgery for them.” *John Dunton’s Journal* ; in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, vol. ii. p. 114, *New series*. “*Squaws* ; *woman* : *Squaws-suck* ; *women.*” *Roger Williams’ Key into the Language of the Indians of New England* ; published in the *Collect. Mass. Hist. Society*, vol. iii. p. 203.

*To SQUIGGLE.* To move about like an eel.

Used in some parts of *New England* ; but only in very familiar conversation. It is often used *figuratively* in speaking of a man, who evades a bargain, as an eel eludes the grasp. I do not find this word in any of the dictionaries, or glossaries.

*To SQUIRM.* To move about like an eel. *New England*.

This is an English *provincial* word : “To move very nimbly about, after the manner of an eel. It is spoken of an eel.” *Ray’s South and East Country Words* ; and

*Grose's Prov. Gloss.* It is in none of the dictionaries except *Bailey's* (*octavo* edition) and *Ash's*; in the latter of which it is erroneously printed *squirm*. It is never used here except in the most familiar conversation.

**STAGE.** A stage-coach. *Ex.* I rode in the *stage*; the *stage* is gone, &c.

In *England* they never use the word *stage* by itself, but say, either the *coach*, or the *stage-coach*. We say, the *mail-stage*; the English say, the *mail-coach*. The expression is analogous to *post-coach*, *post-chaise*, &c.

**STAGING.** Scaffolding. Used in *New England*; and, I believe, in other parts of the United States.

**STALKS.** See *Corn-stalks*.

**TO STARVE.** "To perish or kill with hunger; (with cold; *England.*)" *Webst. Dict.* "This ['with cold'] applies to conversation only." *Month. Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 262.

**STEAL** (pron. *stail*). The handle of various implements; as, a *rake-steal*, a *fork-steal*, &c. Used by the farmers in some parts of *New England*. It is a provincial word in *England*: "The *steal* of any thing, i. e. *manubrium*. The handle, or *pediculus*, the foot-stalk: à *Belg.* steel, stele: *Teut.* stiel, *petiolus*." *Ray's South and East Country Words*. This term is also mentioned by *Mr. Pegge*: "*Stale*, a handle. *North.* Pronounced *Stele*." *Supplem. to Grose*.

**STIMULUS.**

Some persons in this country have doubted whether this word (which is in common use here) is an authorized *English* word. It is not in the dictionaries; but it is constantly used by the English reviewers and other writers. See *Brit. Crit.* vol. ii. p. 362. vol. iii. p. 518. vol. iv. p. 653, &c.

**STIVED.** (Commonly used with *up*.) *New England*. A low word.

This is an English *provincialism*: “*Stived*, almost suffocated. *Stived-up*, confined in a hot place. *North*.” *Pegge’s Supplem. to Grose*.

**STOCK.** Cattle in general. Used commonly in speaking of the cattle belonging to a farm. It is provincial in England: “*Stock*, cattle in general. *North*.” *Pegge’s Supplem. to Grose*.

**STOCKHOLDER.** A proprietor, in a Bank or other incorporated Company.

The terms *proprietor* and *member* are sometimes used here; but *stockholder* is the most common. In *England*, when speaking of the *East India Company*, they uniformly say *proprietors* or *members*; and the same words are also used in most other cases. Sometimes, however, the term *share-holders* is used. The word *stock-holder* is not in the dictionaries: nor do I recollect meeting with it in any *British* publication, except in the following instance; where it is used to signify the holders of the *public stock* or *funds*: “The *stock-holders*, who allow inferior capitalists to derive a profit from commission, will diminish that allowance.” *Edinb. Rev.* vol. iii. p. 475.

**STORE.** A shop.

“Here are several shops and warehouses, called *stores*, for the sale of foreign goods,” &c. *Kend. Trav.* vol. i. p. 128. “A druggist’s shop is sometimes called an *apothecary’s store*.” vol. iii. p. 128. This word is used in the same manner in the British province of *Canada*; and (as a friend informs me) in the British *West-Indies*. See also *Book-store*.

**STRICKEN.**

This antiquated participle is much used in Congress and our other legislative assemblies. A member moves, that certain parts of a bill should be *stricken* out, &c. It has long been considered as an *obsolete* word in *Eng-*



land. Dr. Johnson many years ago called it “the ancient participle of strike.” But some individuals in that country, as well as in this, occasionally use it. The latest instance I have seen is the following, from a *London* newspaper: “Many of the foreigners were much *stricken* with the splendour of the scene.” *The Statesman of June 10, 1814*; in the account of the “Court at Carlton House.” Our own critics have all condemned the use of it; and I do not recollect meeting with it in our best writers.

I have, in one or two instances, known the still more antiquated participle *strucken* to be used by individuals in this country; but it was always noticed as a singularity in those persons. I have, however, met with one instance of it in a modern *English* work: “Some coins had actually been *strucken* of this denomination,” &c. *Nash's Hudibras*, vol. iii. (*Notes*) p. 35. Notwithstanding the fondness, which some persons have discovered for the ancient *participles* of the verb *to strike*, yet none have ventured to revive its old *preterite STRAKE*, which is used in the New Testament: “And fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, *strake* sail, and so were driven.” *Acts*, xxvii. 17.

The judicious remarks of Dr. Campbell on the subject of reviving obsolete expressions, are deserving of our attention. After observing, that it is not by *ancient* but by *present* use, that our style must be regulated, he has the following (among other) remarks:—“But if present use is to be renounced for ancient, it will be necessary to determine at what precise period antiquity is to be regarded as a rule. One inclines to remove the standard to the distance of a century and a half; another may, with as good reason, fix it three centuries backwards, and another six. And if the language of any of these

periods is to be judged by the use of any other, it will be found, no doubt, entirely barbarous. To me it is so evident, either that the *present use* must be the standard of the present language, or that the language admits no standard whatsoever, that I cannot conceive a clearer or more indisputable principle, from which to bring an argument to support it." *Philos. of Rhet.* B. ii. ch. 1, sect. 3. (P. 191. Boston edit.)

**SUABILITY.** "Liability to be sued." *Webst. Dict.*

Several years ago, when the question, *whether a state could be sued*, was under discussion, this word was much used. It is now rarely heard.

**SUANT.** Even, regular. *Ex.* The grain is sown *suant*. Used in some parts of New England.

This is an English *provincialism*. *Marshall* has it among his *Provincialisms of the West of England* thus : "*Souant* ; fair, even, regular. (A hackneyed word)." *Grose* also has it, with only the change of *s* into *z*, which is common in that part of England : "*Zuant* ; regular sowed. The wheat must be zown *zuant*." *Prov. Gloss.*

**SUBSCRIBER.**

"Letters signed by princes are a very uncertain test of the talents of (what by a very convenient *American* innovation is called) the *subscriber*." *Edinb. Rev.* No. xli. p. 188.

**To SUBSERVE.**

This is sometimes used by English writers, but is not considered as an authorized word. It is in common use in this country, particularly with our divines. The English say *to be subservient to*, or *to serve* ; as in the following example : "We are of opinion, that it may *serve* the interests of society." *Brit. Crit.* vol. iii. p. 577.

**SUPERIOR.** See remarks on *Inferior*.

**SUCCOTASH.** "A mixture of new soft *maiz*\* and beans boiled." *Webst. Dict.* An *Indian* word.

**To SWALE or SWEAL.** To waste or blaze away. Used here in this expression only: The candle *sweals*.

*Ray* and *Grose* mention this as *provincial* in England: "Sweal: singe. To sweal a hog. A sweal'd cat; a cat whose hair or fur is singed off by sleeping in the ashes. Sweal is sometimes applied to a candle that *drooses* or melts; called in *Middlesex* *flareing*." *Grose's Prov. Gloss.*

**To SWAP.** See *To Swap*.

**SWEEP, n.** The same thing which in *Forkshire*, in England, is called a *swape*; that is, "a long pole turning on a fulcrum, used in raising water out of a well." *Marshall's Provincialisms of Forkshire*. It is hardly necessary to observe, that it is used only in our *country* towns.

**To SWOP or SWAP.** "To exchange, or, as they term it, *to swap*, are the pursuits in which they wish to be constantly engaged." *Kend. Trav.* vol. iii. p. 87. A low word, in America.

This word has been often noticed by English travellers in this country, and may, perhaps, be more common here than in England; but it is also used by the vulgar in that country. Dr. *Johnson* and the other lexicographers call it a *low word*, but do not speak of it as *provincial*. *Horne Tooke* also mentions it without any remark of that kind, and gives the following etymology of it: "The Anglo-Saxon verb is *swipan*, in modern English *to sweep*. *Swoop* and *swop* are (as we have already seen in so many other instances) its regular past participle, by the change of the characteristic I to O." He then adds—"A *swop* between two persons, is where, by the consent of the parties, without any delay, any reckoning

\* Mr. Webster's orthography of *Maize*

or counting, or other adjustment of proportion, something is swept off at once by each of them." *Diversions of Purley, Part 2, p. 217—18 Amer. Edit.* This word is also much used in *Ireland*: "He makes me an offer to *swoop* his mare." *Edgeworth's Castle Rack Rent.* The noun *Swop* is also often used by the same class of speakers that would employ the *verb*. A friend has pointed out to me the following example of its use in *Addison's* day: It is taken from a *letter* in the *Spectator*. "These had made a foolish *swoop* between a couple of thick bandy legs and two long trapsticks that had no calfs to them." *Spect. No. 559.*

**To SYSTEMIZE.**

An English friend has reminded me of this corruption of the verb to *SYSTEMATIZE*; which, as he observes, is "a common error in some parts of this country." *A.*

**To TACKLE.** To harness. *New England.*

I never heard this word used in England, and it is not in *Johnson's* dictionary, as a *verb*, in any sense. *Ash* calls it "a *local* word, from the substantive *Tackle*, and defines it—"To accoutre; to put the saddle and bridle on a horse." *Entick* also has it with this definition: "To saddle, accoutre, fit out, prepare." In England however (as a friend observes) *to harness* "is universally used, where in New England, they say *to tackle*." *A.*

**To TARRY.** To stay, to stop. *New England.*

This verb is entirely obsolete in England; and it sounds as strangely to the ear of an Englishman, as *I twist not, I wot not*, and a thousand other antiquated expressions would to us. An English friend remarks, that "if it were not used in our translation of the Bible, it would be in a manner out of recollection among the English." *A.*

## TAVERN.

“By the word *tavern* in America is meant an inn, or public house of any description.” *Annual Rev.* vol. i. p. 106, note. This word is also noticed in *Kendal’s Travels*, vol. i. p. 122; and the expression *to keep tavern*, in the same work, vol. ii. p. 148. In *Great Britain* (as an obliging English friend observes) “a *tavern* is a mere eating house; an *inn* is a house with accommodations for man and horse.” *B.* The word *tavern* is used in the British Province of *Canada* just as it is in the U. States. See *Lambert’s Travels*. A friend informs me, that “it is also used in the same manner in the British *West Indies*.” *A.*

**TEDIUM.** “Irkomeness, wearisomeness.” *Bailey*, fol. edit.

An American reviewer of *Bancroft’s Life of Washington* (where this word is used) observes, that “*tedium* is not English.” *Monthly Anthol.* vol. iv. p. 665. The only English dictionary, in which I have found it, is the folio edition of *Bailey’s*; the octavo edition of that work (of the year 1761) omits it. It is not in Mr. *Webster’s* dictionary; and it is extremely rare in the writings of Americans. I never met with it except in the instance above alluded to by the reviewer.

## TEMPER.

This word (as an English friend justly observes) when standing alone, has often a bad sense affixed to it in *New England*. Thus, ‘the book shews *temper*’ means ‘the book manifests *warmth of temper*.’ *A.* In *England* it is invariably used in its original sense of *coolness* or *moderation*: “The loyal associations, conducted as they have been with *temper*, judgment and a strict attention to the laws.” &c. *Brit. Crit.* vol. i. p. 441. “*Washington* conducted himself with great coolness and *temper* under all the irritating circumstances of citizen Genet’s conduct.” *Ann. Rev.* vol. vii. p. 239. “As long as we urg’ our own opinions with

*temper.*" &c. *Quart. Rev.* vol. xii. p. 282. The derivatives *temperate*, *intemperate*, &c. are used by us as they are by the English.

**To TEST.** "To compare with a standard, try, prove." *Webst. Dict.*

This verb is now in general use with American writers. "An occasion presented itself for *testing* the firmness of the resolution he had deliberately taken," &c. *Marsh. Life of Wash.* vol. v. p. 400. [p. 469. *Lond.* 8vo. edit.] "Let us *test* this dogma by plain fact." *First Ripe Fruits*, &c. by the Rev. John Mason, New York. "In order to *test* the correctness of this French system of sermonizing," &c. *Adams' Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory*, vol. i. p. 334. The use of *test* as a verb is condemned by the English reviewers. The *Annual Review* (vol. vii. p. 244) mentions, among the instances of "incorrect language" in *Marshall's Life of Washington*, the use of "*testing for putting to the test*," in the example above quoted from that work. The *Christian Observer* (vol. ii. p. 564) in the review of Dr. Mason's *First Ripe Fruits*, gives the expression above quoted from it, as one instance of the "*occasional vulgarisms, possibly Anglo-Americanisms*," of that work. Some of our own writers have also expressed the strongest disapprobation of the use of this verb; "*Test* is a verb only in writers of an inferior rank, who disregard all the land-marks of language." *Monthly Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 264.

**TRY.** Neat, cleanly. *New England.*

This colloquial word is in all the dictionaries; but in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (vol. lxiii. p. 1084) it is classed among the *local words* of the *West of England*. It is also ranked among English *provincialisms* by Mr. Pegge, in his *Supplement to Grose*. An English friend, however, says, "it is used in *Old England*, in those cases

in which it is employed in *New England*." *A.*

**TO AND AGAIN.** Backwards and forwards.

A low expression, used by the illiterate in New England. It is an English *provincialism*: "To and again; backwards and forwards. York and Derb." *Pegge's Supplem. to Grose*.

**To for AT.**

"I have been *to* Philadelphia, for *at* or *in* Philadelphia; I have been *to* dinner, for I have *dined*." *Withersp. Druid*, No. 6. Expressions like the following (which have been noted by an obliging English friend) are very common with the illiterate: "He lives *to* York; he is *to* his store. I have even heard, He isn't *to* home." *B. Dr. Witherspoon* classes this use of *to* among his "*Vulgarisms in America*." The following instance is from an *American* edition of *Robertson's Charles V*: "He put himself *to* the head of the men at arms." &c. Book iii. A. D. 1524 (vol. ii. p. 175, *Philadelphia* edition of 1804.) The *English* quarto edition, p. 203, has—He put himself *at* the head, &c. A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* says, *to* is used for *at*, "all over *Devon* in England." vol. lxiii. p. 4084.

**TO TOTE.** To carry, convey, remove, &c. (*Virginia* &c.)" *Webst. Dict.*

A reviewer of Mr. Webster's dictionary says—"Tote is marked by Mr. Webster, *Virg.* (*Virginia*) but we believe it a native vulgarism of *Massachusetts*." *Monthly Anthol.* vol. vii. p. 264. Dr. *Witherspoon*, however, many years ago noted it as a word peculiar to "some of the *Southern States*." See his *Druid*, No. 7. It is a mere vulgarism, and is much more used in the *Southern* than in the *Northern States*.

**TOWN.** "A collection of houses, a district of certain limits, the inhabitants or the legal voters of a town." *Webst. Dict.*

“ *A collection of houses joining, or nearly joining each other, is the first requisite in the definition of a town, though the word be taken in the loosest sense that is admissible in Europe. In New England, however, a town is very commonly described as containing two or three villages; and these are frequently separated from each other by two or three lakes, and two or three tracts of forest....A town, then, in Connecticut and the other parts of New England, is first, a district or geographical subdivision, in which sense is the phrase ‘Inhabitants of towns;’ secondly, it is a body corporate....In truth, the society, town and county in these countries, are new modifications of the parish, hundred and shire, in which the powers and immunities are differently distributed.*” *Kendal’s Trav.* vol. i. pp. 12, 85, 113.

The word *town*, in the sense of *a district*, is used in *Ireland*: “The word *town* in *Ireland* does not mean as it does here [*in England*] houses inhabited, but is merely a technical description of a particular district, and is notorious there.” *See the case of Massey vs. Rice; Cowper’s Reports*, 348.

**TOWNSHIP.** “The territory or land of a town.” *Webst. Dict.*

This word is seldom used now in England, I believe, except to signify “the corporation of a town,” which is Johnson’s first sense of it. His *second* signification, however, is—“the *district* belonging to a town;” and his authority is Sir *Walter Raleigh*. The following instance is from a *modern English* author: “The common field *townships* were divided into a certain number of *livings*, i. e. tenements or farms.” *Marshall’s Rural Econ. of Midland Counties*; word *Living*.

**TRADE.** Doctor’s *trade*; that is, drugs or medicines. Used by the vulgar in *New England*. In the county of *Nor-*



*folk* in England, they have the name of *Doctor's geer*. See *Grose's Prov. Gloss.*

**TRANSIENT.** In this expression—"He is a *transient* person;" that is, one who has not a fixed residence in a town. It is noticed by the English reviewers (in their account of *Stoddard's Sketches of Louisiana*) by being put in *Italics* in the following quotation from that work: "The accounts of Indian traders and other *transient* persons," &c. See the *Eclectic Rev.* for Aug. 1813, p. 116.

**TRICKY.** *Trickish.* A low word. *Ex.* He is a *tricky* fellow.

**TURNPIKE.** "A toll-gate set on a road; a road on which a *turnpike* is erected." *Webst. Dict.*

This word (says an English friend) is always used in America "to signify the *road*. It is unquestionably the *gate*, and in England they always say, the *turnpike road*, and by *turnpike* alone they mean the *gate*." *B.* "The *turnpike roads* of England are placed under the management and direction of certain bodies of trustees." &c. *Hawkins' Pleas of the Crown*, by Leach. B. I. ch. 76. "The passage of carriages or horses through any *turnpike*, toll-gate, or bar, at which any toll is collected." &c. *Stat. 25. Geo. 3. c. 57*, cited in the same chapter of that work.

**UGLY.** Ill-tempered, bad. (*New England.*) *Ex.* He is an *ugly* fellow; that is, of a bad disposition, wicked. The compound *ugly-tempered* is sometimes used. They are both heard only among the illiterate.

**UNFEELING, n.** Want of feeling. This word is justly censured in the *Monthly Anthology*, vol. iv. p. 281. I never saw it in any other instance than the one there referred to.

**UNLOCATED.** See *To Locate*; second signification.

**To VARIATE.**

A friend has reminded me, that this is a favourite word with a few of our clergymen, in the following ex-

pression, which is much used in their prayers: “*Variate* of thy mercies according to our circumstances and wants.” It is hardly necessary to remark, that this verb is not in any of the dictionaries.

**VENDUE.** Auction. *New England.*

This word was formerly more common than *auction*. It is now chiefly used in *legal* proceedings, in conformity with the phraseology of ancient statutes of the different States. It is neither in Mr. *Webster's*, nor the *English* dictionaries; but it has been added to some of the American editions of *Johnson* and *Walker*. “It is used (says a friend) in the British West Indies; whose similar circumstances or similar personages, have often produced a correspondence with the phrases of the United States.” *A.*

**To WAGE.** “To lay a wager; to bet.” *Webst. Dict.*

The English use the verb *to bet*. Dr. *Johnson* indeed says, that the verb *to wage* “is now only used in the phrase *to wage war*; and does not give it in the sense of *laying a wager*; but has only the verb *to wager*. *Bailey*, however, and *Entick*, and some others have *to wage* in this sense. An English friend observes, that if an Englishman were to use a verb of this derivation, “he would say, *to wager*.” *A.*

**WAP.** See *Whop*.

**WENT for GONE.**

This inaccuracy is sometimes heard in conversation; but the use of it is confined to those people who are wholly inattentive to their language. It is a **LONDON** vulgarism. Mr. *Pegge* has the following remarks upon it, in connexion with his observations upon *com'd* for *came*: “The **LONDONER**, if asked, when he returned to town? will answer, I *com'd* yesterday; and if asked, why he returned so unexpectedly? will tell you, he had not *com'd* but on particular business.....Thus much, sir, for

the Cockney's coming to town :—and now let us hear him on the subject of his going into the country ; when he will tell you that, except for such a reason, “ he had not went.” *Anecdotes of the English Lang.* p. 232—3.

**WHARVES**, plur. of Wharf.

*Americans* always make the plural of this noun, *wharves* ; the *English* say *wharfs*. “ There were not in London used so many *wharfs* or keys for the landing of merchants' goods.” *Child*, as cited by *Johnson*. “ Something that is artificial, as keys and *wharfs*,” &c. *Lord Hale, De Portibus Maris*, ch. 2. “ This occasioned the statutes.....which enable the crown by commission to ascertain the limits of all ports, and to assign proper *wharfs* and quays in each port,” &c. *Blackst. Com.* i. 261. “ The Legislature must have supposed that the warehouses, quays, and *wharfs* would not be so constructed,” &c. *Lord Ellenborough*, in the case of *Harden vs. Smith*, 8 *East's Reports*, 20. The word *quay* (uniformly pronounced *key*) is in more common use in London, than *wharf*.

In the *Colony* and *Province Laws* of Massachusetts, I have observed the plural *wharfs* (or *wharfes*) as late as the year 1735 ; but after that period the plural *wharves* is used.

**WHOP, WHAP**, *n.* ; **AWHAP**, *ad.* “ An old word for a heavy fall, or the manner of falling ; still used by the vulgar.” *Webst. Dict.*

A reviewer of Mr. *Webster's* dictionary observes—“ *Whap* never fell under our notice before.” *Month. Anthol.* vol. vii. 264. (1809) In a late English work the noun and verb are both mentioned as *provincialisms* of *Somersetshire* : “ *Whop*, a heavy blow. *Whop*, *v.* To strike with heavy blows.” *Month. Mag.* vol. xxxviii. p. 333. (1814) I have never met with any account of the adverb *awhap* ; nor have I heard it used in this country.

**To WILT.** To wither.

This is *provincial* in the *South* and *West* of England :  
 “To wilt, or wilter ; to wither. These flowers are all  
*wilted*.” *Grose’s Prov. Gloss.* It is not in the diction-  
 aries.

**WOULD for SHOULD :** In this expression—“It *would* seem.

This is the common idiom in the United States. The  
*Scottish* writers also generally use it : “But these people,  
 it *would* seem, need to be informed,” &c. *Campb. Philos.*  
*Rhet. B. ii. ch. 3, (p. 255. Amer. edit.).* The *English*  
 more commonly say, it **SHOULD** seem : “He could not, it  
*should* seem, have taken a more agreeable or, perhaps, a  
 more modest method of transmitting himself to posterity.”  
*Melmoth’s Pliny, pref. p. 1.* “The want of correspond-  
 ence is to be imputed sometimes, it *should* seem, to inad-  
 vertency, and sometimes to design.” *Review of Combe’s*  
*Horace (written by Dr. Parr) in the Brit. Crit. vol. iii.*  
*p. 53.* “It *should* seem, that literature is not neglected.  
*Brit. Crit. vol. vii. pref. p. 9.* “With an intention, as it  
*should* seem, to provoke inquiry.” *Quart. Rev. vol. iv.*  
*p. 157.* But the practice of *English* writers is not in-  
 variable ; as will be seen by the following examples of their  
 use of *it would* seem : The first point, however, it *would*  
 seem, embraces,” &c. *Quart. Rev. vol. vii. p. 2.* “It *would*  
 seem, however, that we have,” &c. *vol. viii. p. 273.* See  
 the same work, *vol. v. p. 374 & 388 ; vol. ix. p. 431.*

The expression *it should* seem (as Mr. Pegge observes)  
 “is a modest and *common* way of expressing ‘it seems’  
 among various writers, where any diffidence is intended.”\*  
 But this use of *should* for *would* appears to be an anomaly  
 in our language at the present day. Dr. Johnson observes  
 —“There is another signification now little in use, in  
 which *should* has scarcely any distinct or explicable mean-

\* Anecdotes of the English Language, p. 168.

ing. *It should be* differs in this sense very little from *it is*: ‘There is a fabulous narration, that in the northern countries there *should be* an herb that groweth in the likeness of a lamb, and feedeth upon the grass.’ *Bacon.*” *Johns. Dict.* v. *Should.*

It should be observed that, although English writers generally use *should*, with the verb *seem*. yet with the verb *appear* in similar cases they use *would*—“Thus it *would* appear, that the annual increment of the coin is not one twenty seventh part of that of our stock of the precious metals.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. vi. p. 139. “Or, as it *would* appear, thought of at all.” *ib.* p. 521. “He read, as it *would* appear, among other reasons, for the purpose of ascertaining what had been written. *Quart. Rev.* vol. vii. p. 399.

## SUPPLEMENT,

Containing several additional WORDS, and *Corrections* and  
*Additions* to the articles in the VOCABULARY.

*To ADVOCATE.* (See *Vocab.*)

To this article add—It may be observed, that if the Americans have not a right to “plume themselves” on this word as a “discovery,” they may justly claim the merit (if there is any in the case) of *reviving* it.

*ANIMALISM.* Sensuality.

“The brute must have predominated, in the writer, over the man, and held the pen, as well as controuled the heart, when this effusion of *animalism* was poured out upon the world.” *Remarks on the Quarterly Review of Inchiquin’s Letters*; p. 132. (*Boston*, 1815.)

This word is not in general use in America; but is peculiar to the writer here quoted.

*APPELLATE.*

English writers in some cases use *appellant* where we should employ *appellate*: “The part his Lordship took in the revival of the *appellant* jurisdiction of the House of Peers in Ireland.” *Brit. Crit.* vol. ix. p. 298. “The proper province of their members [i. e. the members of the *French Parliaments*] was that of judges; in all matters of law, they had both an original and an *appellant* jurisdiction.” *Gifford’s Life of Pitt*, vol. ii. p. 4.

*Johnson* has *APPELLANT* as a *substantive* only; but *Mr. Todd* has it as an *adjective* also: “*APPELLANT.* *adj.* Appealing; relating to an appeal, or to the appealer.” *Todd’s Johnson*.

**ARK.** "A lumber vessel or ship." *Webst. Dict.* (*Southern and Western States.*)

"These boats [on the river *Ohio*] are generally called *Arks*;....They are square and flat-bottomed; about forty feet by fifteen, with sides six feet deep, covered with a roof of thin boards, and accommodated with a fire place. They will hold from 200 to 500 barrels of flour. They require but four hands to navigate them; carry no sail, and are wafted down by the current." *Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains*; by Thad. M. Harris, p. 50.

**ATTRIBUTION.** "The act of ascribing." *Webst. Dict.* "It is the *attribution* of these iniquities to the *Americans*, with an intention to make them a characteristical disgrace peculiar to them, of which I complain." *Remarks on the Quarterly Review* (art. *Inchiquin's Letters*,) p. 81.

A correspondent remarks, that he has never seen *attribution* thus used, except in the work here quoted. It is not in general use in this country; and is very rarely to be found in English authors. Dr. Johnson has it (on the authority of *old writers*) only in the sense of "commendation" and "qualities ascribed." Mr. *Todd*, however, has added to these the signification in question; on the authority of *Warton*: "The *attribution* of prophetic language to birds was common among the orientals." *Warton's Hist. Eng. Poet.* i. Diss. 1.

**BETRUSTMENT.**

I never knew this extraordinary word to be used in any publication, except in the following instance: "Be impressed with a sense of this interesting *betrustment*, and under the double excitement of duty and of interest, be prepared to act with firmness and fidelity." *Letters to the People*; by a *Farmer. Lett.* i. The *English* dictionaries have the verb *to betrust*; but I believe the substantive *betrustment* is not noticed by any lexicographer, except our countryman, Mr. *Webster*.

**BIG.**

This adjective is generally used by the people of the *Southern States*, in cases where a *New Englander* would use *great*

or large. *Ex.* A big man, &c. We should say in *New England*, a large man.

*CALL.* Occasion; necessity. "He has no *call* to act upon the will of his hearers." *Adam's Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory*, vol. i. p. 254.

This use of the noun *call* is noticed by *Grose*, as provincial in *England*: "*Call.* Occasion, obligation. He had no *call* to do it. *Derb.*" *Prov. Gloss.*

*To COMMERCE.* A correspondent has pointed out to me the following instance of the use of this word: "The profit that would arise to Virginia from *commercing* with China." *North American Review*, vol. i. p. 3.

This verb has long been considered as obsolete in *England*. I have not, however, seen it expressly mentioned as *out of use*, in any of the dictionaries, except the "*New Universal English Dictionary*," by *William Rider*; London, 1759.

*To COMPARE.* *v. neut.* *Ex.* This *does not compare* with that. We sometimes hear the verb *compare* used in this manner in *conversation*; but there is no authority for it. I never saw it in this sense, in any of our *publications*.

*To COMPROMIT.* (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. *Todd* has admitted this verb into his edition of *Johnson*; but with the following remarks: "This is our old word for *compromise*. 'To *compromit* or put unto *compromise*.' *Sherwood*. It has been of late revived, especially by American writers."\*

*CONFLAGRATIVE.*

This word is noticed (among others) in the well known review of *Inchiquin's Letters* published in the *Quarterly Review*; where the use of such words by certain individuals in the United States, is considered as evidence of a design in

\* The preceding sheets of the present work were all printed, before I had an opportunity of seeing any more than the *First Part* of Mr. *Todd's* edition of *Johnson*, comprehending the whole of the letter A and a small part of B. I have just seen the four subsequent *Parts*, which extend as far as the word *Inert*; and the reader will find, in the following articles of this Supplement, such of his remarks on some of the Words above noticed, as upon a cursory examination appeared to be most important.



this country, to make an entire change in our language. The Reviewers say—"The President of Yale College talks of a *conflagrative* brand, and President Jefferson of *belittling* the productions of nature." *Quart. Rev.* vol. x. p. 528.

One of our writers, in his reply to that Review, admits the word in question to have been used; and defends the author, by producing instances of individuals in England, who have made use of very ridiculous expressions. See *Remarks on the Quarterly Review*, Boston 1815.

**DEMORALIZATION.** (See *Vocab.*)

Notwithstanding the unqualified manner, in which this word is condemned by the *Edinburgh Reviewers*, it is admitted into Mr. Todd's edition of Johnson; and the *Quarterly Review*, for Nov. 1810, is cited as the authority. The editor however observes, that it is "of very recent usage only."

**To DEMORALIZE.**

This verb, as well as the preceding noun, is admitted into Mr. Todd's work; with the following remarks: "This verb is of late introduction into our language. It may be defined the opposite to our old word *moralize*; which, however, has not hitherto been explained agreeably to its usage by the excellent author of the *Christian Life*: 'Those laws and circumstances, which do *moralize* human actions, and render them reasonable and holy and good.' *Scott's Works*, fol. ii. 129. To *demoralize* is to render them unreasonable, unholy and unjust."

**DEPARTMENTAL.** (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. Todd has admitted this word into his dictionary, upon the authority of *Burke*; by whom it is used (in speaking of *French* affairs only) in his *Preface to Brissot's Address*.

**To DERANGE.** (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. Todd observes, that about twenty years since this was condemned as a *Gallicism*; and he then quotes the remark of the *British Critic* (upon this and other *Gallicisms*) which I cited under the word *Debarb*. But he adds, that "*Derange* has gained ground; and is now common."

**DISORGANIZATION and DISORGANIZE.** (See *Vocab.* v. *Organize*.)

These are both admitted into Mr. Todd's work, with no other remark, than this; that they are modern words.

**DOMINANT.** (See *Vocab.*)

Though this word was objected to by the English Reviewers twenty years ago, yet it is now admitted into Mr. Todd's work, where the following authority is cited: "By the then *dominant* party it [Milton's *Eiconoclastes*] was esteemed an excellent piece!" *A. Wood, of Milton, Fasti Oxon. sub ann. 1635.*

**ELECTIONEERING.**

Mr. Todd has this noun, but not the verb *to electioneer*.

He, however, calls it "a low word."

**TO ENERGIZE.** (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. Todd has admitted this into his work, upon the authority of *Harris* (the author of *Hermes*) and Bishop *Horsley*. He also has the substantive *Energizer*, upon the authority of *Harris*.

**EULOGIUM.** (See *Vocab.*)

This is not in Mr. Todd's work. I presume it was not an intentional omission.

**EVIDENTIAL.** (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. Todd has admitted this word, upon the authority of Bp. Fleetwood, *Essay on Miracles*, p. 229.

**TO EVOKE.** (See *Vocab.*)

Mr. Todd says—"This verb is in *Cockeram's* old Vocabulary, but I have not found it in use till a century after it." He then cites *Warburton's Letters to Hurd*, 1749, Lett. vi. (which, I have observed, a friend had pointed out to me) and *Warton's Hist. Eng. Poetry*, ii. 362.

**TO EXPATRIATE; EXPATRIATED; EXPATRIATION.**

These words have been much used here, both in the sense of merely *quitting one's country* (which is the original French signification) and of *throwing off one's allegiance*; but more commonly in the latter sense. The only *English* dictionary in which I have observed either of them is *Entick's*; which has only the participle *expatriated*, in the first of these significations. The words are but little used in England.

**FACTOR.** (See *Vocab.*)

To the two significations which Dr. Johnson has given of this word Mr. Todd adds—"S. A place where any thing is made;" in which sense it is commonly employed in this country. He cites the following example from an old writer: "Our corrupted hearts are the *factories* of the Devil, which may be at work without his presence."

**TO FEATHER.** *v. neut.*

A friend has reminded me of this *colloquial* word, which is used in some parts of New England, to denote the appearance of curdled cream, when it rises upon the surface of a cup of tea or coffee, in the form of little flakes, somewhat resembling feathers. We say—The cream *feathers*. I do not find this signification of the word in the English dictionaries or glossaries. In the *Southern States*, I believe, they use the verb *to curdle*.

**TO FELLOWSHIP.**

A friend has given me the following instances of the use of this verb; which is new to me: "We considered him heretical, essentially unsound in the faith; and on this ground refused *to fellowship* with him." *Address to the Christian Public, by a number of the Clergy and Laity of Hampshire County; printed at Greenfield, 1813.* "This Council recommend to the charity of any regular church where it may be consistent with their convenience and their wishes *to fellowship*." *Result of an Ecclesiastical Council holden at Salisbury, New Hampshire, October 1814.*

**FIX.** *n.*

A correspondent informs me, that this word is in common use, as a *noun*, in *North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky*; in expressions of this kind: "That bridge is in a bad *fix*;" or (if it has been repaired) "it is in a good *fix*." I never heard it in *New England*.

**GRADE.** (See *Vocab.*)

"This word (says Mr. Todd) has been brought forward in some modern pamphlets, but it will hardly be adopted."

*To GRADUATE.* (See *Vocab.*)

Dr. Johnson (as I have remarked) has this only as a verb *active*. Mr. Todd has it as a verb *neuter* also: "To graduate, *v. n.* To take an academical degree; to become a graduate: as, he *graduated* at Oxford."

*GREAT.* See remarks on *Big*.

*To GROW.* *v. a.* (See *Vocab. v. To Raise.*)

This is noticed by Mr. Todd, as "an *agricultural* term." He also has the *noun* GROWER, which he defines—"A considerable farmer. Now common in many parts of England."

*To GUN.* (See *Vocab. v. Gunning.*)

This verb is in Mr. Todd's work, upon the authority of *Beaumont and Fletcher, Rule a Wife, &c.* I presume, however, it is not now used in England.

*HAD N'T OUGHT* and *HAD OUGHT.*

These expressions are often heard (in conversation) from people, who would avoid every other vulgarism. The vulgar also frequently say, *don't ought*; as, you *don't ought* to do it.

*ILL.* (See *Vocab.*)

This adverb is not in Mr. Todd's work.

*To IMMIGRATE* and *IMMIGRATION.* (See *Vocab.*)

Both of these words are in Mr. Todd's work. For the first, he cites *Cockeram's Vocabulary*, and *Novels, &c.* 1668; and for the other, *Warton's Hist. Eng. Poet.* vol. i. sign. C. 3. b. and 101. The *noun* *Immigrant* is not noticed by him.

*IMPERIOUS*; in the phrase, *imperious* necessity.

This Gallicism has been much used by our writers since the French Revolution. The English commonly say—*over-ruling necessity*: "A grave and *over-ruling* necessity obliged them to take the step they took." *Burke's Reflections*; p. 44, *Amer. edit.*

*LARGE.* See remarks on *Big*.

*LECTURE-DAY.* Used in New England for *holiday*; from the custom of excusing boys from going to school on those *week-days*, when there was a public *Lecture*: "All Constables may and shall from time to time duely make search, throughout

the limits of their townes upon Lord's dayes and *Lecture-dayes* in times of exercise....for all offenders against this law." *Massa. Colony Laws*, tit. INNKEEPERS, p. 46. edit. 1660.

### OPPUGNATION.

This word was first brought into notice in the following passage of a well known pamphlet, published in New England: "Adverse combinations, *oppugnations*, disrespect, reproach and systematic revilings, are (in the essence and nature of the crimes) sedition, treason and rebellion." *Letters to the People, by a Farmer*, 1802. Since the time of that publication, the word has been used only by way of ridicule.

### TO PLANT.

We often use this verb, where the *English* would employ the verb *to sow*, and sometimes (more technically) *to set*. We always say *to plant* corn (that is, Indian corn), *to plant* potatoes, &c. But, in speaking of all *the smaller kinds* of seeds, we say, as the English do, *to sow*.

### PRAIRIE. (See *Vocab.*)

The *Quarterly Review* (in the account of *Lewis & Clarke's Travels*) makes the following remark on the word *Prairie*: "If this word be merely a French synonyme for *savannah*, which has long been naturalized, the Americans display little taste in preferring it. But perhaps it may designate open land in a woody country, whatever be the inequalities of the ground, whereas savannah (literally *a sheet of land*) can properly apply only to a level." *Quart. Rev.* vol. xii. p. 328, *note*.

The most particular description of these *prairies*, which I recollect to have seen in any of our publications, is in the Rev. Dr. *Harris's Journal of a Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany mountains*; from which the reader will be able to judge of the necessity of this new name. This accurate traveller describes them thus:

"The immense *Prairies* may be classed among the natural curiosities of this country. They are of two kinds: *First*, large level spots of ground, where for several miles there is no rise of the surface, nor any other vegetation than weeds, a

coarse grass and cane. These grow luxuriantly, often higher than a man's head. The soil is deep and rich; but, being of a clayey nature, retains the water after heavy rains so as to appear flooded. In some are little clumps of trees on higher ground, which are called islands. Herds of buffaloes are seen grazing on these plains; sometimes more than a hundred head to ether. These prairies may have been occasioned by the exsiccation of lakes or vast morasses.

"The *second* kind are similar level spots, but not in the low lands: These are rather immense plains, of a black soil, which at once absorbs the rain that falls upon it, so as never to be muddy. These entirely resemble the vast *steppes* in the upper parts of Russia and Siberia, which are described as 'extensive plains, dry, elevated, and destitute of water;' there is not a solitary shrub to be seen on them, much less any wood, but they are covered with a coarse kind of grass."\* p 178.

*ScoOL* or *School* (for *Shoal*) of fish. *New England*.

The English, at the present day, always say *shoals* of fish; and, accordingly we find, in a late English review of an American work, the word *schools* (which probably should be written *sculls*) is noticed by being put in *Italics*. See the review of *Porter's Cruise in the Pacific ocean*; Quart. Rev. vol. xiii. p. 358. But, though most *New England* men would probably employ the term *schools* in conversation, yet in writing they would make use of *shoals*. The word in question, however, is not of *American* origin; but we may in this instance (as well as in the case of the words *to advocate* and *freshet*) plead the authority of *Milton*. He, however, as well as the older authors, wrote it *SCULLS* or *SCULS*; but it was, perhaps, pronounced *scoOL* in his time, as it is in *New England* at the present day:

With fry innumerable swarm, and *shoals*  
Of fish, that with their fins and shining scales  
Glide under the green wave, in *SCULLS* that oft  
Bank the mid-sea." *Milton, as cited by Johnson.*

\* "Tooke's Russia, vol. i. p. 74 and 145, 8vo edition. Pallas's Travels, vol. ii. p. 75."

Dr. Johnson speaks of this use of the word as a peculiarity of "*Milton's style*." *Horne Tooke* cites several other writers, who have employed the word; and, after quoting a passage from Shakspeare, where it occurs, he adds the following note of Mr. Steevens upon it: "SCULLS are great numbers of fishes swimming together. The modern editors, not being acquainted with the term, changed it into *shoals*," &c. *Diversions of Purley*, Part ii. p. 194, *Amer. edit.* Mr. Tooke himself afterwards observes (p. 197)—"The fishes come in *shoals*, *sholes*, or *sculs*, which is the same participle; *sc* [in the Saxon] being differently pronounced, as *sh* or *sk*."

#### SHINGLE.

Mr. *Burnaby* in his *Travels in America* (3d edit. London, 1798) observes, that the houses in this country are covered with *shingles*; and then, as if the term would not be understood by his *English* readers, subjoins an explanation of it—"These are formed in the shape of tiles, and are generally made of white cedar."

*To Sow.* See remarks on *To Plant*, in this Supplement.

#### STALLED.

A correspondent remarks, that "when a waggon has been broken down, or fast set in the clay or mud, so that it cannot be moved by the team, they say in the *Southern States*, that it is *stalled*. In such cases the waggoner takes the rails from the fences to *pry* it out; and these rails are called in such cases (in Kentucky, Ohio and the Western parts of Pennsylvania) "*Yankee screws*."

*STATIONERY* (with an *E*) for *Stationary*. The goods of a stationer.

This orthography of *stationary* was adopted many years ago in our *Acts of Congress*,\* upon the supposition that it was more strictly in analogy with other words of the kind; as, by the same rule that we form *milliner-y* from *milliner*, *cutler-y* from *cutler*, &c. we ought to make *stationer-y* from *sta-*

\* See the Acts, making the annual appropriations of money to defray the expenses of government, since 1797.

tioner. It may, however, be considered as an elliptical expression, for *stationary wares* ; in which case there would be no need of changing the established *English* orthography of the word ; which, I may add, is the *American* also, except in the instance abovementioned.

*VILIFICATION.* “The vilification of government.”

I recollect seeing this extraordinary expression once in an official paper, published under the authority of one of the *Southern* States ; but, I presume it is not in general use there, any more than it is in the *Northern* States.

*YARD-WAND.* Commonly pronounced *yard-wun*.

This term is still sometimes used, by *old* people, for what we now call a *yard-stick*. Anciently (according to Horne Tooke) it was called a *mete-yard*. “By common use, he adds, when we talk of mensuration, we now omit the preceding word-*mete*, and the subsequent *wand* ; and say singly a *yard*.” *Diversions of Purley*, part ii. p. 157.

END.









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